

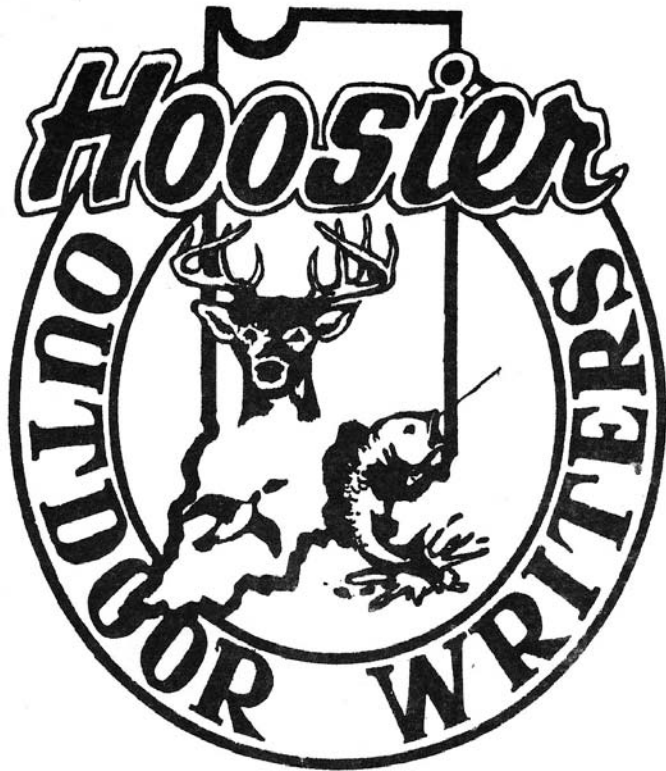
The Blade

July - August 2019

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Hummingbird Moth in the Phlox Garden", 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: A clearwing hummingbird moth uses its long proboscis to sip nectar from phlox flowers in a Lake County garden. Hummingbird moths are often mistaken for hummingbirds since they are similar in size and both creatures fly during daylight hours. Photo by Tom Berg.

President's Message

by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

You Are A Hero



If you are an outdoor communicator, chances are you are a hero to someone. You may not be a hero to your wife, your kids, the guys you go fishing with, or even feel like you are a hero to yourself. But you are.

Let me share my story. Most kids have heroes – at least they have older people which they look up to and respect. Some of my childhood friends were baseball fans. They knew the batting statistics of Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris and other sluggers in Major League Baseball at the time. Other friends of mine would have been star-struck to meet astronauts or perhaps war heroes; and back then, as today, many youths would or do look to movie stars or pop singers as their idols.

Personally, my youthful heroes showed up on the pages of *Outdoor Life*, *Sports Afield*, *Fur-Fish-Game* each month or in the *Indianapolis Star* once or twice a week. My heroes were the outdoor writers who hunted game in far off places and caught fish bigger than any which could be found here in Indiana. They wielded gear I couldn't imagine ever owning, to catch fish in places I could only dream of visiting.

Nothing was out of bounds for them, whether it was a simple column where Bayou Bill explained how to build a campfire or when Ted Trueblood penned an opinion piece about the best rifle for hunting elephants in Africa. When I picked up the next month's issue or the Wednesday night newspaper and read the words of these outdoor communicators, I was being schooled by my heroes.

If you are an outdoor communicator – whether you use pen and ink, or radio, or YouTube videos, or any other media – just remember, there are youngsters out there purposely following your writings, teachings, your words and works because you are their hero.

Sure, I loved my parents, grandparents and other more grown-up people who occasionally took me hunting, hiking or fishing, but that was like playing baseball in the backyard. They had very little “star power” compared to if Mickey Mantle were showing me how to hold the bat or Yogi Berra was teaching me to catch the ball.

You may think you know the audience for your work. When you consider what you are writing, reporting, teaching, explaining or selling, do you consider the youngest viewers, listeners or readers of your work? Keep them in mind. I do.

I'm sure my youthful heroes did, as well. They led me to a life filled with adventures in far off places, pitting my skills against game I once only dreamed about and fish far bigger than any found here in Indiana. If you're not the hero, it will be someone else. How sad if that person is nothing more than a Hollywood celeb or self-righteous YouTube snob.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

**No new members for this issue.
See Member News Section
starting on page 13.**

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

HOW Awards-In-Craft Winner

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

“Stuck Between a Soft Maple and a Hard Place”

by Mike Lunsford

It took 10 years for me to cut a tree down, and even now, I wish it had taken even longer. Not to cut it up, mind you, but to commit to dropping it – a huge silver maple that stood in my front yard.

It has worried me like a nagging tooth for so long that even now I still expect to glance out our living room windows to see it hulking there, its bark peeling, its whirligigs helicoptering to the ground, its roots still anchored in our hardpan clay like a battleship in harbor.

I miss it.

When Joanie and I first moved to our place years ago – she, big with our daughter who would be born within days of our unpacking the dishes – the tree was the tallest of a set of soft maple triplets that stood in a ragged line across our front yard.

All three were already tall, and I believe old enough that the man who built our house 20 years before couldn't have possibly planted them for future shade. Rather, I think he chose the spot for the house because the trees were there beforehand, and I can imagine him framing and roofing under a spreading canopy of summer green.

I know silver maples are not desirable trees; my extension agent brother-in-law hates them. They are messy and they split and their fall color most often is an anemic yellow. They drop twigs in the slightest of breezes, develop soft spots at any place they are trimmed, and have disturbing relationships with power outages, mossy shingles, volcanically eruptive roots, and back-breaking leaf piles; woodpeckers and ants are enamored with them.

Over the years, I have planted a gorgeous oak, a nice yellow poplar, and a blazing red maple in my front yard, but I could never bring myself to cut the big old silvers down; I just couldn't do it. I like and respect trees, and since these three were apparently healthy, I wasn't going to touch them despite their flaws. Call it lack of foresight or a case of stupidity, but the rattle of their leaves and their bird nests and their cooling shade endeared them to us.

Nearly 10 years ago, I hired a tree trimmer to shape the maples. I didn't want to “top” them, which isn't recommended anyway, so I had him remove enough interior branches to allow the wind to blow through them. He told me then that the tree in question should probably be taken down.

On a scale, with 10 being the worst shape a tree could be in, he said ours was already about a 7, that it might split at any time, for its massive trunk was supporting two main branches that together were wider than the size of its base. It was only a matter of time before we'd be wearing the tree on our house.

Despite the anxiety I suffered, particularly anytime the wind

stiffened in a June thunderstorm or the weatherman was calling for a fast-moving cold front, I persisted in making excuses for keeping the tree. But as this winter gave over to the spring, I knew that the tree's shedding bark in a spot no smaller than a doorway was a warning sign that a split was imminent, that a rotted spot lay just under the surface, and I had better have it brought down.

My long-suffering wife had to have grown tired of my wrestling with the decision; she loved the tree too, but I chattered about it to anyone who would listen. Years ago, we had a swing under it; our kids played around it; our windows opened to the breezes that blew through it; and just last fall, its leaves were inexplicably golden, as pretty as it had ever been.

Yet, it took one man repelling between the branches like a chainsaw-wielding Tarzan, with two more on the ground, to drop it in a single sweaty day. Just like that, a tree well over 4 feet wide at the ground was gone; a relatively small pile of firewood was left for my son's evening camp-outs.

Call me a “tree hugger,” but the indiscriminate destruction of trees makes me sick. I know I had to cut the maple to potentially save us both harm and an insurance claim, but there is much we can learn from trees.

I do not believe, as the Greeks did, that they deliver prophecies, or that they murmur to one another in some sort of secret language. A fascinating article in “Smithsonian Magazine” this past March captivated me with the new science of trees as conveyed by German forester Peter Wohlleben and Canadian forest ecologist Suzanne Simard. They face criticism for applying human emotions to trees, but to not do that makes us something less than human, I think.

I do believe that living things have the right to stay in place; after all, the silver maple was here before I was. Yes, I mow grass, I pull poison ivy from fence rows, and I cull weeds from my flower beds, but that old tree – all 65 feet of it – reminded me that my outward appearance as I age, does not necessarily mean my usefulness is over, my value diminished. I know that eventually it had to be cut, but whether it was this year or 10 years from now, I couldn't have known. I was stuck between the tree and a hard place.

Over the summer, I plan to have the maple's stump ground away; I will bring in soil and sow grass seed and plant a new tree where the old one stood. I won't plant another like it; right now I am considering a scarlet pin oak if I go large, a flowering crabapple if small.

It's the least I can do.

DNR News

Division of Fish & Wildlife

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

For immediate release: July 22, 2019

New Hunting Guide License now required

The Indiana General Assembly passed a new law this year that is now in effect (Senate Enrolled Act 363) requiring a Hunting Guide License for those that provide hunting guide services for money or other goods or services (barter or trade). The license costs \$100 per year. The application for the license and monthly report form can be found at wildlife.IN.gov/2371.htm.

While hunting guides (also called outfitters) have not been licensed by the Indiana DNR in the past, fishing guides have been licensed for a number of years.


The Indiana General Assembly also modified language for penalties as it pertains to guides. Violations include knowingly or intentionally guiding an individual on private property to hunt without consent of the landowner. The laws can be found at the same website, wildlife.IN.gov/2371.htm.

To view all DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

Media contact:

Linnea Petercheff
Operations Staff Specialist
DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife
Phone: 317-233-6527
Email: lpetercheff@dnr.IN.gov

[Reset Form](#)



APPLICATION FOR HUNTING GUIDE LICENSE
State Form 56753 (5-19)

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
402 W. Washington St., W273
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2781
Telephone number: (317) 232-4102
Fax number: (317) 232-8150
E-mail: wildlifepermits@dnr.in.gov
www.wildlife.IN.gov

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. BE SURE TO READ REGULATIONS.
2. Please print or type information.
3. Mail completed application with license fee to address in upper right corner.

License Fee: \$100.00 (pursuant to IC 14-22-15.5)

Check one: New Renewal Date of Application (month, day, year) _____

Year wanted on License (License expires on March 31 of following year.) _____

Name of Applicant (first name, last name) _____ Date of Birth (month, day, year) _____

Address (number and street or PO BOX) _____

City, State and ZIP Code _____ County _____

Telephone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

Name of Business _____ Business Telephone Number _____

Business Address (if different than above) _____

Business Website (if applicable) _____

Species of Animals (including birds) for which guide services will be offered: _____

Counties where guiding will occur under this license: _____

Please make check or money order payable to the Indiana DNR in the amount of \$100.00 and mail it with your completed application form to the address in the upper right-hand corner.

Under the penalties of perjury (IC 35-44-2-1), I certify that the information supplied by me is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date Signed (month, day, year): _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Application Received (month, day, year) _____ Check / Money Order Number _____

Approved by _____ Date Approved (month, day, year) _____

License Year _____ License Number _____ Date License Issued (month, day, year) _____

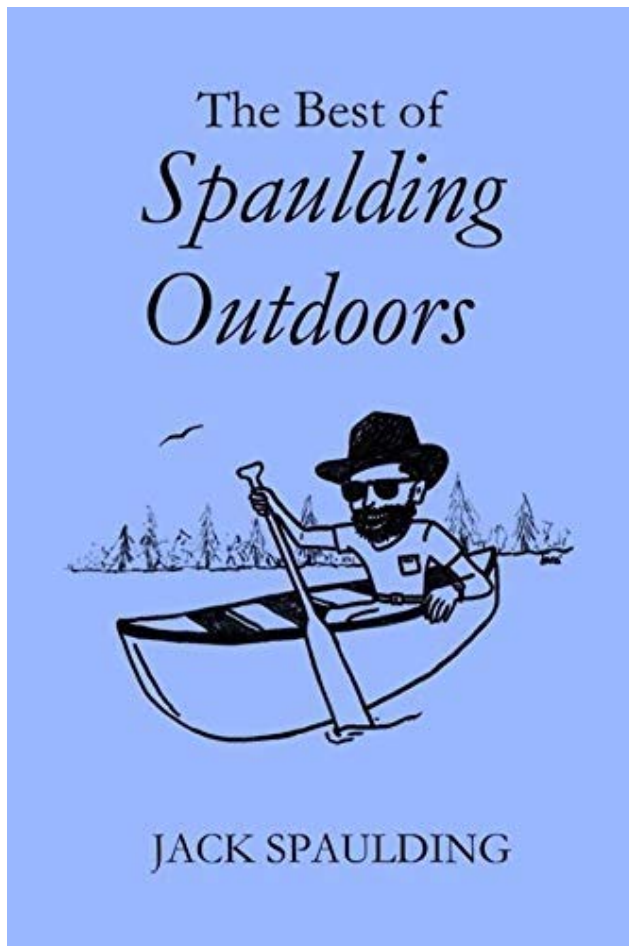
Reviews on Great Outdoor Books

Everyone likes to read new books, whether it is strictly for pleasure or to learn something new. HOW members are no exception! Some of our favorites are outdoor guide books and identification books. But we also love outdoor adventure and recreation books, and books that simply entertain. This book below from HOW member Jack Spaulding is very entertaining and is one that you should add to your library and introduce to your readers as well:

The Best of Spaulding Outdoors, by Jack Spaulding.

Book review by Tom Berg:

HOW Past President Jack Spaulding has just released his first book, *The Best of Spaulding Outdoors*. Anyone who knows Jack well is aware that he has been writing the syndicated column *Spaulding Outdoors – The Inside on Indiana’s Outside*, for more than 30 years, and this collection of his best works is excellent.



This book includes some of the best and funniest stories from Jack’s outdoors column over the years. Fishing, hunting and boating stories make up the bulk of the text, but there are also tales about critters, campfires, worms, stinging nettles, trapping, snakes, skunks, crawdads and more. One of my favorite stories described how young Jack learned about possum trapping and accepted a “special” dinner invitation from his neighbor Anderson Mantooth. The main course? One of the possums that Jack had caught on his trampoline and sold to Mr. Mantooth!

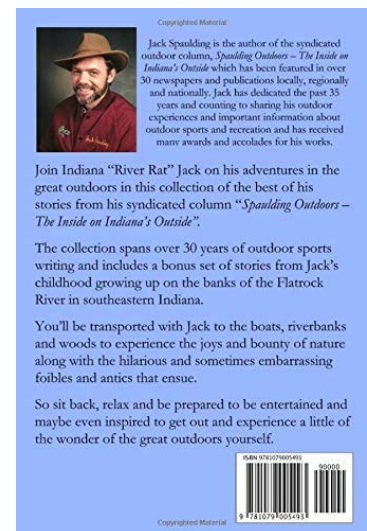
Besides some of the more humorous anecdotes in the book, Jack also tells quite a few stories about “the old days”, and how he remembers growing up in the late 1950s. Judging by some of the tales, Jack’s mother must have been on the waiting list at the Vatican for becoming a saint.

Jack also shares many of his wild game recipes, all of which were first tried on his tolerant wife and their daughters. As most outdoorsmen know, if it swims or flies, it just has

to be good for you. Jack’s stories also provide harvesting and cooking tips for a wide variety of Indiana’s wild edibles, some of which you have probably never tried yourself.

For more information or to schedule an interview with Jack, give him a call at 765-570-6701 or drop him an email: jackspaulding@hughes.net.

The book is now available on Amazon in paperback and e-book. ISBN-13: 978-1079005493.



A Garden

by HOW member Joe Jansen

My friend Gerald in the Tennessee BHA (Backcountry Hunters and Anglers) chapter calls the Boundary Waters Canoe Area “his Eden.” It’s a metaphor that works on a couple levels. Eden was a space of pure nature. It was also the place we became conscious, became aware of pairs of opposites. Knowledge of this and that. Light and dark. The first wardrobe malfunction when man and woman, noticing they were different, grabbed some fig leaves to cover up.

Our party was in the Boundary Waters last week, and opposites were everywhere. Technology and nature: on our first night, the International Space Station passed over at an angle of 84° – nearly 250 miles straight up, to the sounds of our awe. Later, a wolf howled in the



dark, and a chorus of loons responded with something that sounded like jubilation. This exchange happened three times, and I began to suspect we were eavesdropping on a conversation.

Community and solitude: we gathered around fire and told stories and shared food. Later, each would seek out solitude and the deep quiet where one can hear one’s own blood flow.

Tumult versus serenity: A storm threatening, our five canoes dug hard into a headwind, four miles to cover before the real weather hit, and no time to pause for snacks or drinks or rest. A

very real risk of getting turned sideways like a canoe-shaped sail, and dumping it. Yet another evening, the water was smooth as window glass. Just after sunset, Jill and I paddled back from the other camp, trying to move without noise. Without any dip, dunk, gulp, swirl, drip of a paddle. Sig Olson wrote: “At times on quiet waters, one does not speak aloud but in whispers.”

We were quiet, if not silent. I thought about the copper mine 40 miles west of here, on the edge of these waters near Ely and near Sig’s writing shack. We tried to stay present in the moment, present with the flat water and the changing light. But knowing it could change... Knowing there’s work to do, to keep from despoiling Eden a second time. I pulled harder on my paddle, and the water talked back.

This place, I thought, is wilderness for a reason. Aware of opposites, I thought how this place has meaning beyond the Chilean peso value or the dollar value of the metals in the ground. Later, I read some more Sigurd Olson, and saw this:

"In wilderness people can find the silence and the solitude and the non-civilized surroundings that can connect them once again to their evolutionary heritage, and through an experience of the eternal mystery, can give them a sense of the sacredness of all creation."

By George, I thought. Sig might be talking about Eden.

My Texas Nemesis

by HOW Past President Troy McCormick

Daylight was breaking, but the lighting for good video wasn't quite there yet when the animals first stepped out of the mesquite and prickly pear. I needed a few more minutes so the camera could record my shot. But as quickly as they had appeared they drifted back into the brush and disappeared. What were they? Javelinas.

I was hunting in the south of Texas recently with good friend and cameraman Kenny Bayless, when I finally saw my first javelina. I don't know what it is about the collared peccary, a.k.a. javelina, that has intrigued me so much over the years? I mean, they don't have big antlers, they aren't known for being exceptionally difficult to hunt, and they aren't even listed as one of the 29 big game animals of North America, but I still wanted to hunt one. They had become my newest adversary.

An outfitter that I hunted with three years ago texted me that he had permission to hunt a new piece of property that was overrun with javelina and they were eating all of the corn he put out for wild hogs and whitetail deer. I asked a few questions and quickly booked an off-season, July hunt.



these animals get.

The Henry lever-action .308 rifle barked and my first javelina dropped in his tracks, never taking so much as a single step. Kenny and I traded the gun and video camera and within half an hour Kenny pulled the trigger on a nice-sized javelina boar of his own.

I texted the outfitter that the second javelina was down and he said we were probably done for the day. Since it was still early we decided to wait a bit longer. Within half an hour a large group of about ten returned once again and I took my second animal of the morning.

After all of these years of waiting, the hunt was over after the first hour, of the first day, with three trophy javelina lying under the feeder at the end of a 60-yard, Texas sendaro. My nemesis was dead and I couldn't have asked for a better morning of hunting.

Our exciting javelina hunt will be broadcast this fall (November) on **The Hunt Channel**, and on our web site at <http://Bootprints.TV>. Be sure to check it out.



Kenny Bayless (left) and Troy McCormick pose for a quick photo after their successful morning javelina hunt in southern Texas.

A Redneck Quaker Goes Fishing in Texas

by HOW Vice President Kenny Bayless

When I answer the phone and hear the voice of Troy McCormick, my mind goes into high gear contemplating where we may be off on another adventure in the outdoors. Troy told me we were going to the southern border of Texas and Mexico on South Padre Island to hunt Javelina and go fishing. He was also planning to visit the great border wall. Yes, a redneck Quaker had to climb on the wall, although I was going the wrong way!



The inner coastal area of Port Mansfield, Texas harbors some of the best speckled trout fishing around. Arnold LaPlant is a booking agent who advised us on outfitters. As Troy and I looked at the boat, we in awe that it didn't have any sides. It proved to be very efficient, though, and we were able to walk freely around the center console while fishing.

The guide (Leevi Escobar) took us to his secret fishing hole, near a small island. We were looking for speckled trout, a beautifully-colored fish with spots on a silver background. The average fish we caught weighed about two pounds. Leevi set us up with spinning rods and chartreuse crankbaits that looked like they would be better suited for largemouth bass.

From the first cast, the bite was fast and furious. I was catching a fish on every cast for a long time. Leevi kept looking to the horizon for sea birds diving into the

water because that told us the trout were feeding in that certain area and we would move to that area. All three of us anglers often had fish on at the same time.

The next day produced memories of a lifetime while fishing for white bass and largemouth bass in Falcon Lake. This huge reservoir lies right on the United States/Mexican border, and at one time Falcon Lake was considered the best bass lake in the US.

This outfitter supplied us with a baitfish called a croaker; they looked like a small bluegill and they made a croaking sound when handled. You would, too, if you had a hook going through your backside! The white bass proved to be very aggressive fighters. Again, we often had two or three anglers reeling fish in at once.

As the sun dropped on the horizon the outfitter changed our bait to a dark green rubber worm. Personally, I don't think the color made a difference since we were fishing in pitch black darkness. I'm bragging when I say I outfished Troy on the first two species, but when it came to largemouth bass, I couldn't even buy one.

At one point Troy let out a war hoop after setting the hook. I grabbed the camera to film him reeling in a huge largemouth bass weighing just a few ounces shy of nine pounds. What a fish! Needless to say, he was elated with the largest bass he ever caught.

One of the most memorable catches of the trip, though, occurred on a crankbait with two treble hooks on it. Luckily, I got it all on camera. Two white bass were caught at the same time on one lure. I've never seen this on any of the fishing shows I've watched. If you think those are fishing stories, go to the award-winning internet outdoor TV show Bootprints.TV and see for yourself. The fishing shows will air in a few months. Remember, when the phone rings and you hear Troy's voice, start packing your bags!



Above Left: Fishing guide Leevi Escobar (L), Troy McCormick (C) and Kenny Bayless (R) show off a great limit of speckled trout.
Above: Bayless clowns around on the border wall (on the USA side!).



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:

Who Doesn't Love Hummingbirds? "I never expected to see so many hummingbirds in Arizona," reported HOW Board Member Dave Hoffman after spending the winter in Green Valley. Most of us in Indiana are quite familiar with the most common hummingbird species east of the Mississippi River, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. However, one may also encounter the **Rufous Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus rufus*) as stray migrants pass through Indiana during the mid-winter. The vast majority of Rufous Hummingbirds migrate between Mexico and Alaska each year. Here is a photo of a Rufous Hummingbird that Hoffman took in Arizona (at right).



According to the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, the majority of the world's 300 hummingbird species are found in Central and South America, and somewhere between 10-20 species find their way into Southeastern Arizona. "I've read that one Arizona hotspot recorded 12 hummingbird species and another reported 14, but there is general agreement that one can realistically see eight different species in one day," said Hoffman. "It only took me a couple days to add six new hummers to my life list."

The **Blue-throated Hummingbird** (*Lampornis clemenciae*) is a large, nectar and insect eating hummingbird. It can be found where other nectar dependent species cannot exist. It's also called the Blue-throated Mountain-gem and has a limited

distribution. Hoffman enjoyed photographing this one (see photo above left).

Another interesting hummingbird species is the non-migratory **Anna's Hummingbird** (*Calypte anna*). The iridescent throat patch of male hummingbirds is called a gorget. Looking much like the familiar Ruby-throated Hummingbird since they both have a bright red gorget, the Anna's Hummingbird is the only North American species where the red feathers extend over its head, giving it a red crown. See photo at right.

So, where does one look for hummingbirds in Arizona? Hoffman suggests the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum located just west of Tucson, and adjacent to the Saguaro National Park west unit. Among the Museum's many popular attractions is a 3,300 square-foot hummingbird aviary. "It's a great place to learn to identify these fast-moving species up close, and it provides an opportunity to practice the tricky art of hummingbird photography," he said. Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains, which is less than ten miles east of Green Valley, is his favorite spot for hummers.





Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors



Report from Troy McCormick:

HOW Past President Troy McCormick traveled to south Texas recently on a fishing and hunting trip, and he saw a very interesting bird indeed. “As the outfitter drove us back to camp one day, I spotted a large hawk-like bird sitting on a fence post along the highway,” he reported.

“It immediately caught my attention. We had just come in from fishing for speckled trout in the Laguna Madre near Padre Island and I quickly asked the outfitter to stop and turn around. I needed a photo! I was able to get my first shot through the window, and then I exited the truck and crossed the highway for an even better view. The bird was a **Crested Caracara** (*Caracara cheriway*), which is a raptor that looks like a cross between a hawk and a vulture. It is a member of the falcon family, however, and is only found in Mexico and the states of Arizona, Florida, and Texas.



Crested Caracaras are often seen eating carrion alongside vultures, but they also catch and eat live prey like snakes, lizards, mice, birds and even insects. They can eat just about anything!

Left: An adult Crested Caracara surveys the countryside from atop a wooden fence post, looking for food.
Below: A Greater Roadrunner pauses in a shady spot on the trail with its lunch: a tasty long-tailed lizard.

McCormick also saw another interesting bird on his Texas trip, a **Greater Roadrunner** (*Geococcyx californianus*). “You know you are in the southwest when you see a Roadrunner running towards you along a dusty sendero,” quipped McCormick. “This one was out hunting, like we were, but he had been more successful than us. He stopped right in front of us as if showing off the trophy lizard he had caught.”

“What I didn’t know is that the Roadrunner is a member of the cuckoo family of fast-running birds, and they can reach speeds of up to 27 miles per hour! You can see them in the tall grass and scrub because they themselves are very tall, reaching 22-24 inches in height. The long tail of theirs flicks up and down while they are at rest. We saw several roadrunners while hunting javelina in the Texas mesquite and prickly pear terrain.”

Greater Roadrunners eat plenty of harmless lizards, but they also eat poisonous prey like rattlesnakes, scorpions and venomous lizards. Evidently their cast-iron stomachs can handle it. Surprisingly, Roadrunners often eat snakes that are too long for them to swallow all at once, so they simply swallow as much as they can, leaving the remainder hanging out of their bill. As the snake is digested, they keep swallowing a little more until it is completely gone. Yum.



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

HOW members are encouraged to send their interesting bird photos to newsletter editor Tom Berg (thomas.berg@comcast.net) for use in future editions of the “Interesting Bird Sightings” page. It does not need to be a rare bird. Your fellow HOW members would love to see your bird pictures.

HOW Member News

Bramwell Helps Mentor Budding Anglers

HOW Past President Rick Bramwell is a life-long fisherman and loves catching panfish, especially bluegills. But he also knows about fishing in general. Lately, he has been spending some of his free time working in the fishing department at his local Cabela's store and passing on some of his knowledge.

"Working at Cabela's has opened my eyes to how many folks need help and guidance from those of us who take fishing seriously," said Bramwell. "For example, a couple with two kids came in to the store with two spinning outfits. The rigs were cheap and the reels too large. They didn't have enough line and one had the line threaded through the small hook keeper at the base of the rod. 'This thing just won't cast very far,' the man said. I helped him out."

"Another guy came to me with a new rod and reel in hand, asking me to spool line. When you buy fishing line at the store, Cabela's will remove the old line and spool the new – a free service as long as you buy the line. Anyhow, I asked the fellow if he intended to match that rod and reel. Indeed. Trouble was, the spinning reel would not work on the casting rod. He simply did not know."



"I know these folks left with the right equipment, but they need a mentor and a lot more advice and hands-on instruction than I can give during a short encounter. But I'm trying."

"I recently stopped a guy leaving the fishing department and told him 'I can't let you buy that.' He was going to Canada with buddies to fish for walleye and smallmouth bass with a spinning reel and fiberglass rod that were simply too large. He also had a spool of 30 pound-test line. I demonstrated the sensitivity of a fishing rod by having him touch the rod tip to my larynx while I speak. With a good graphite rod they will feel the vibration in the handle. 'I'm going to show this trick to my friends,' the northbound angler said. We found an outfit that would work and I spooled the reel with new line. We put back a couple of lures and chose others. I think the guy will catch a lot of fish."

"I've learned that most people do not have a good understanding of how to spool a reel and tie knots. We had a guy just showing the kids and parents how to tie various knots. Mastering terminal tackle, lures for different applications, rods, reels, and line to match the varied baits and methods. All this is a daunting task for the novice."

"Even I don't have all the bases covered. I don't know much about catching catfish, walleye, northern pike or muskie. The same goes for fly fishing or deep sea pursuits. The best advice I can give a beginner is to find a friend who fishes a lot and go with them. It is the responsibility of experienced anglers to share their knowledge. In fact, I have actually learned a lot from some of my customers."

All of the fishermen in HOW should make the effort to pass on their knowledge to the next generation. It's essential for preserving our way of life. Of course, the same goes for hunters and trappers, as well!

Mike Berg Catches Milestone 500th Fish Species and More

As we have reported previously in *The Blade*, HOW member Mike Berg loves fishing. But it's a little more than that. "I have three extra goals when fishing besides having fun, relaxing, and getting some fish to eat," said Berg. "Goal number one is to catch as many species of fish as possible on hook and line during my lifetime. Targeting minnow species and other small fish with micro-fishing gear has added a lot of new species for me. Goal number two is to catch at least one fish in each of the 50 states. Goal number three is to catch every species of fish that lives in Indiana."

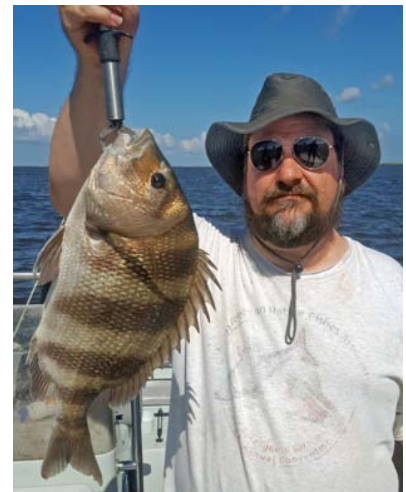


Above: Mike Berg displays his 500th fish species: a black drum. **Right:** A similar-looking sheepshead. **Below Left:** Flagfin shiner. **Below Right:** A sharpfin chubsucker.

"I try to attend the NANFA (North American Native Fishes Association) convention every year," he continued. "I've been going since 2011. This past June the convention was in Jackson, Mississippi." During the multi-day conference, attendees have the opportunity to go on field trips to local waters to observe and catch different native fish. Berg never misses these opportunities!

"I saw this year's convention as an opportunity to fish in Louisiana and Mississippi. My wife and I went to New Orleans for a few days before the convention and I hired a fishing guide one day. I caught my 500th fish species in Louisiana – a black drum. I also crossed Louisiana off of my state bucket list."

"For the next week I moved around the coast of Mississippi and then on to the convention, and crossed MS off my list, too. I just need 12 more states (WA, OR, ID, MT, ND, SD, UT, NM, VT, RI, HI, MA). I have already been to Massachusetts and



Hawaii, but did not fish for some reason. So I have to go back to those two. Not surprisingly, my wife said she'd be happy to go to Hawaii."

On his recent Louisiana and Mississippi trip, Berg caught 20 new species for his Life List, including speckled sea trout, hardhead catfish, black drum, red drum, sheepshead, croaker, striped mullet, gafftopsail catfish, silver perch, ladyfish, southern flounder, sharpfin chubsucker, coastal shiner, Mississippi silvery minnow, naked sand darter, scaly sand darter, frecklebelly madtom, harlequin darter, flagfin shiner and longjaw minnow. He also caught about two dozen other species he had already caught in the past.

Berg has been working diligently on expanding his Life List of fish for several years, and he's not stopping now that he has reached his 500th fish species. In fact, after this recent trip he is officially at 519 species!



McBroom and McCormick Chase Spring Squirrels

HOW Past President Ken McBroom likes to go fishing whenever he gets the chance, but he also enjoys hunting for all kinds of game. Recently he hosted fellow HOW member Troy McCormick for a little squirrel hunting during the spring hunting season in his 'new' home state of Kentucky.

"Troy made it down here for a quick overnight trip to film a spring squirrel hunt for his show Bootprints.TV, said McBroom. "We managed a few squirrels, and as usual, we shared plenty of laughs. During the hunt I was using my favorite new squirrel gun, a Henry lever action .410 shotgun. Troy had his Henry .22 magnum rifle."



"The hawks had the squirrels hunkered down and we even watched a pair of hawks grab a squirrel from a tree right behind us. While walking the woods we also spotted a little ginseng on my property that I'll be watching."

"Before Troy left for a late night drive back to Indiana, I prepared some buttermilk fried squirrel with mashed potatoes and biscuits and gravy. I must say it was pretty good, but I still haven't mastered the gravy like my mom fixed me growing up. Not sure you can ever get it as good as momma's. Thanks, Troy, for the laughs and camaraderie. I look forward to more."

McCune Family Saves Abandoned Cat

"HOW member Patrick (Paddy) McCune, DNR Head of Security at Salamonie Reservoir, rescued an 8-week old black and white female kitten from certain death last fall by picking it up and putting it in his coat pocket to warm up while he was making his rounds," said his father and fellow HOW member, Ray McCune. "He also fed it part of his lunch, I understand."

"This happened around Thanksgiving of last year," continued the elder McCune. "Several people at the Nature center wanted to adopt it, but you guessed it: It now lives at our house. A trip to the Vet with \$300 in my hand confirmed that she is now a part of our family. So we welcome Sally Mona McCune to our home; I nicknamed her Pusscat. She is the only cat I've ever known that loves to take a bath. Every morning she beats me to the tub for a scrub down and a fluff dry with a towel."



"Paddy stated that he estimates there are about 75 stray cats loose in the Salamonie Area. We were lucky to have gotten her before she had a chance to turn feral. Of course, that is if she had survived hypothermia."

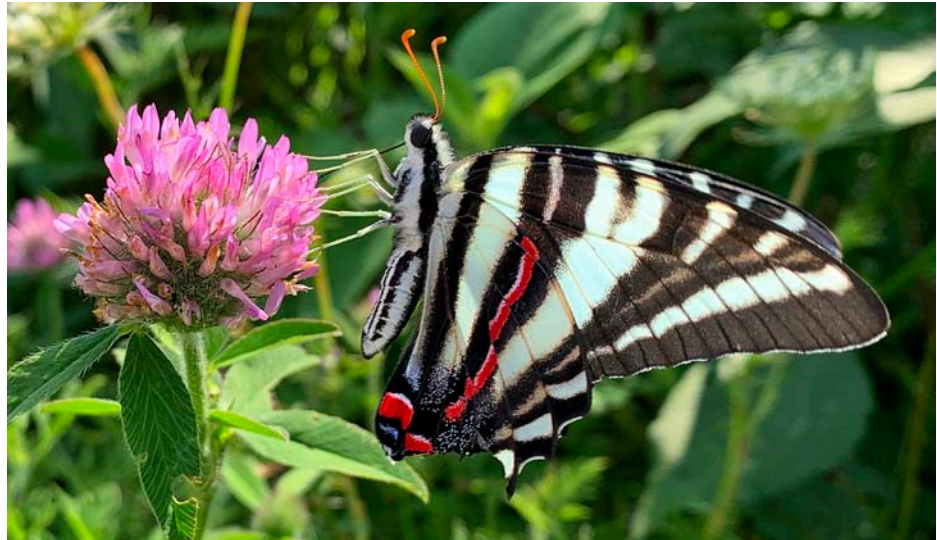
Marilyn Culler Experiences Butterfly Madness with Friend

HOW member Marilyn Culler enjoys exploring Indiana’s back roads and the paths which are less traveled. One of her ‘back road’ adventure partners, Joanna Suitors, recently joined her for an afternoon to remember.



“As I recall, we had no destination in mind,” reminisced Culler. “It was a ‘left or right’ kind of day. We stopped by the weather station in Clinton Falls. The weather was fair. Suddenly, we stopped. The sight as we rounded a corner made us laugh with delight. Butterflies were fluttering like a gauntlet across, above and along both sides of the road in the golden late afternoon light.”

“We quickly spotted a zebra swallowtail, and I told Joanna to go for it! The conversation went mostly like this: ‘He’s on the left! He’s on the right!’ In the meantime, multitudes of orange sulphur butterflies were swirling around us.”



Top: A perky orange sulphur butterfly stops just long enough for an impromptu photo op. **Above:** A beautiful zebra swallowtail poses for a perfect photo on a bright pink clover flower. Photos by Marilyn Culler.

“The zebra swallowtail kept moving. Joanna gave up on him and said I should go after him. ‘I can’t get him to settle down,’ she told me.

He finally slowed down in the clover and the shade of tall corn stalks on the west side of the road. This black-and-white beauty and I shared a few moments together as my camera clicked away. Then he was off again. Sometime during our stop, a black swallowtail appeared.”



Above: A black swallowtail also pauses at a flower for a quick sip of nectar. Photo by Joanna Suitors.

“Photographing butterflies involves patience, good light and a fast shutter speed. Did I mention patience?”

“An orange sulphur fluttered back and forth in front of us, guiding us on down the road. Soon he joined another group of butterflies and we moved on. This was a good day for butterflies.”

“From mushroom season to Fall harvest, we often jump in the Polaris Ranger and take in the fields and warm sunshine. The beauty of backroads wandering is being able to pull off almost anywhere for a few photos. We can travel through all of Putnam County, even if we have to eat a little road dust from time to time. Beauty is everywhere – if you look!”



Bob Sawtelle Chases Wilderness Cutthroat and Bull Trout in Montana

Recently, HOW Past President Bob Sawtelle made a solo trip to the Bob Marshall Wilderness in Montana during the last two weeks of June. He was on a personal quest to catch large bull trout on the famed Flathead River. He stayed at the Spotted Bear Campground and Ranch, southeast of Hungry Horse, Montana. This is a remote area, between Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness. It is ideal for

those wanting to leave civilization and the cares of modern life far behind.

Sawtelle spent those two weeks camping out of his truck camper (separated from his truck – see photo above). “It’s a great set-up, perfect for loners like me,” stated Sawtelle. “There are not many travelers there. In fact, I was the only camper in the area. To get to it, you must drive through 55 miles of potholed gravel road, with a top speed of 15 mph.” The south fork of the Flathead has been aptly called Montana’s most inaccessible river.



“I like to keep my backcountry cooking simple,” he continued. “I boiled coffee in my old cowboy pot from 1980. Lots of it! I survived on ‘Ready to Eat Meals’ that only require boiled water. Those commercial meals are actually pretty good. I did not eat trout during my stay, because that would tempt me to cook bacon, too. Cooking with bacon brings in the bears. Remember, I camp and fish alone. In the Bob Marshall Wilderness, cougars, wolves and grizzly bears abound.”

(continued next page)



Sawtelle loves fishing secluded and pristine rivers like the Flathead, but such isolation does have its drawbacks. “It was a 4-5 hour drive to get cell service; and just as far for a piece of huckleberry pie!” he exclaimed.

“The South Fork of the Flathead River is known for both bull trout and its many feisty and fatty cutthroat trout,” said Sawtelle.

“I used dry flies for the cutthroats, and big jigs for the bull trout. I caught both species. Most of the bulls were caught when I took a one-day guided float trip out of Spotted Bear Ranch (www.spottedbear.com).”

“We fished through the gorge of the South Fork of the Flathead on the float trip. I had a trophy trout on the line for a micro-second before he threw my hook. I know where he lives, though, and hopefully I will revisit his hideaway soon.”

Sawtelle is planning a return trip out west in September. Fishing in Idaho and Montana are on his itinerary, and of course Spotted Bear Ranch is on the list, too. This time he will be bringing along some friends to share the memories.



Top: Bob Sawtelle poses with a very nice bull trout on his float trip. **Above:** The remote and scenic Flathead River is custom-made for serious fly fishermen. **Right:** Sawtelle’s fishing guide from Spotted Bear Ranch displays one of many beautiful cutthroat trout caught and released on the Flathead River. All photos by/courtesy of Bob Sawtelle.

Vikki Trout Succeeds During Turkey Season

HOW member Vikki Trout loves all kinds of hunting, but turkey hunting is particularly close to her heart. She filed this report from the 2019 spring turkey season:

“The pre-dawn hours of May 3, 2019 were spent in my pick-up truck because it was raining so hard,” recounted Trout. “It was raining so hard, in fact, that I dared not attempt leaving. Finally, there was a slack period and I decided to head out into the woods and get to the edge of my food plot. I did not want to get caught by the eyes of a wary turkey and end my hunt before it began! Since it was raining, the decision to leave Pretty Boy (my gobbler decoy) in the truck was made. He has a genuine fan and you know how nasty wild turkeys look when their feathers get wet! Three hen decoys, my Benelli Super Black Eagle II 12 gauge, and my turkey vest loaded to the brim with all the stuff a turkey hunter thinks they need plus an extra cushion to protect me from sitting on the wet ground accompanied me to what I expected to be a sure bet.”

“Typically, turkeys hate wet feathers and I just knew in my mind that if the rain quit, they should most certainly head for the open food plots. It was not long after sunrise and the rain ended. I made some gentle calls both on the diaphragm and the slate calls. Nothing. Then I tried moving and calling, but again, nothing. It was a long day.”

“Suffice it to say, when I heard my first gobble of the day at 6:30 p.m., I was in a state of shock. Problem was, this longbeard was over 200 yards away and straight up the hill. If I moved, he was going to easily see me. There was one call he absolutely loved and when I used it, he double-gobbled, blew up in full-strut and started walking my way. I thought this would never pan out because gobblers typically will not travel that far for a hen. They fully expect her to come to them.”

“The longbeard walked and strutted all the way down the hill. Then, after looking over the decoys that did not budge, he turned to start leaving. Knowing I had nothing to lose, I gave him two gentle yelps and a cluck from that call, in hopes he would change his mind and come back. He indeed did turn around and started coming. However, he stopped, stretched his neck and head and I knew he was going to head out again. I do not like shooting 62 yards at a turkey but I had practiced this distance prior to the season. The shot rang out and he dropped in his tracks. The Benelli did its job!”



Freedom Hunt Aids Special Needs Children

HOW Past President John Martino recently forwarded a letter from Brad Rozzi, Co-Coordinator of the Freedom Hunt for special needs children to HOW Executive Director Tom Berg. Berg forwarded the letter in email form to the HOW membership. The info is repeated below, so please take a look. If you know a special needs child that might be interested, please contact John or Brad. They still have some spaces available for this year and would like to get them all filled to help as many children as possible. Here is the note from John Martino:

“Please distribute this to our fellow outdoor writers – I know they would appreciate it. The Freedom Hunt takes place during the youth only deer hunting season in Cass County. It is open to any youth with special needs – emotional or physical. They get everything furnished and get to spend the weekend camping, hunting, fishing – among other outdoor activities. They hunt under the watchful eye of their own personal guide. I have taken part since its inception and it is really a remarkable opportunity for these children. There are still spots left which is why I would like to see if you could send this out.”

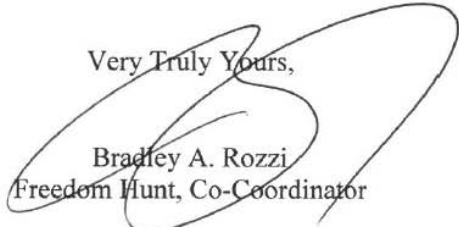


August 7, 2019

Dear Outdoor Writers:

Freedom Hunt is a Non-for-Profit Organization that provides outdoor opportunities for special needs children. Our annual event, which involves both deer hunting and fishing, is scheduled to take place during the weekend beginning September 27, 2019. The event will take place in Cass County on the banks of the beautiful Eel River. During our event, all participants will experience the various privileges that Mother Nature has to offer including, but not limited to, deer hunting, fishing, camping, great food and drink, trap shooting, camaraderie, and beautiful scenery. All expenses associated with the event are covered by our Organization. We currently have room for more participants. If your child suffers from a special need, please seek out an application on our website at Freedomhunt.com and/or contact Co-Coordinator, Brad Rozzi at 574-722-4560 and we will get an application to you immediately. This year marks the 14th year of the existence of our Organization and we expect the event to be a great one!

Very Truly Yours,


Bradley A. Rozzi
Freedom Hunt, Co-Coordinator

Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Howard Leight Shooting Sports

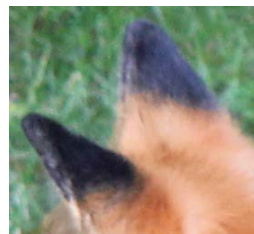
The Wily Red Fox is a Real Carnivore, But Not a Picky Eater



Close-up



Original



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was correctly identified by a total of ten (10) HOW members. Bill Keaton, Gary Redmon, Michael Ellis, Ken McBroom, Troy McCormick, Mike Schoonveld, Mike Berg, Brandon Butler, John Maxwell and Phil Seng all identified it. When we drew a name at random for the **HOW/Garbers** prize package, Michael Ellis was the winner. Congrats, Michael! We’ll mail you the prize.

As you can see in the photo to the left, the mystery creature for this issue was a Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*). Red foxes are easily identified by their bright red coat and

big, fluffy, white-tipped tail. Another distinctive trait is their black ear tips and their black front legs. Red foxes are the most widely distributed carnivore in the world, thriving throughout most of the northern hemisphere. They can be found throughout Indiana and most of the USA, and live in places as diverse as the arctic, Europe, Asia, and North Africa.

Red foxes mate during mid-winter (January-February), and usually give birth to 3-6 kits. Sometimes as many as a dozen kits are born. Although red foxes are carnivores, they can also be classified as omnivores since they eat a wide variety of animal and plant matter. Mice, voles, birds, rabbits, snakes and turtles make up a large part of their diet, but they also eat ripe fruit, acorns, grasses and large insects when the opportunity presents itself. They often hunt just before sunrise.

The fur of the red fox is beautiful and valuable, and trappers and hunters harvest foxes during the fall and winter when the fur is prime. Red fox fur is used to make luxury coats, and it is also used as trimming for cloth coats and other garments.



by Honeywell

For this issue, HOW Supporting Member **Howard Leight Shooting Sports** will donate a nice prize for the HOW member that guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be a set of Howard Leight Impact Sport Multicam electronic earmuffs, worth more than \$60. 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, but you are unlikely to see it in your back yard. Have you ever seen a color pattern on a Hoosier creature that looks exactly like this? Look closely, as it may not be what comes to mind right away.

This creature may be harder for some people to identify and easier for others, but we’ll see. 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 sparrow, for example, go ahead and guess “chipping sparrow” (of course, it’s not a sparrow). 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, **Howard Leight Shooting Sports** will donate a set of Impact Sport Multicam electronic earmuffs for the HOW member who guesses correctly for this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. Visit www.howardleight.com to see all of their ear protection products. If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw a winner at random from the correct entries. All nature 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.

Irish Setter® Makes New Vaprtrek Hunting Boots Even Lighter, with Better Traction, Durability & Comfort

Red Wing, MN: The original Irish Setter VaprTrek® 8" hunting boots were 40% lighter than traditional Irish Setter big game hunting boots without sacrificing support or stability. After their launch in 2014, this family of extremely lightweight boots quickly became a top seller. Since then the product team has been researching new technologies and construction methods to move the breakthrough design forward. After conducting materials testing and field wear trials, Irish Setter is proud to introduce the new VaprTrek lineup, which is even lighter while delivering better traction on rough terrain, all with improved durability and outstanding all-day comfort.

The great fit and go-all-day comfort that made VaprTrek boots so popular with hunters and hikers remains a top priority. A contoured last mirrors foot shape for excellent fit, while lace-to-toe eyelets help customize the fit.

A highly breathable and durable polyurethane memory foam footbed creates instant and all-day comfort for less fatigue. And it remains resilient - not succumbing to compression like most EVA footbeds. The uppers provide other comfort and performance features like waterproof, full grain leather, lightweight Rip Stop fabric, military-grade quick dry linings which wick away foot moisture, UltraDry™ waterproofing for long-lasting protection, a memory foam collar for instant comfort in all temperatures, a Cushin™ Comfort Tongue that provides comfort in the shin area and ScentBan™ scent control that eliminates odors within the boot. Select models feature Primaloft® insulation for warmth in cool environments.



Hunters look to Irish Setter for durable footwear and the new VaprTrek does not disappoint. Armatec™ XT technology adds durability and abrasion resistance in high wear areas of the heel and toe while leather reinforcement is strategically placed to protect flex points for enhanced durability over time.

These ultra-lightweight boots provide greater traction and support to allow for more time in the field with less fatigue. A lightweight, nylon shank adds arch support and EnerG technology within the dual density midsole delivers extra comfort in the heel and forefoot impact zones. A harder durometer RPM material is used in the midsole and it also extends to the outsole. Rubber sections of the outsole with multi-tiered lugs

provide superior traction on uneven terrain and self-cleaning lugs shed debris with every step. Rubber pods are utilized for enhanced traction and durability. Tiered toe treads offer grip control when walking up steep inclines. The wrap-around instep provides protection from, and extra grip for, tree stand rungs or ATV foot pegs. The outsole provides best-in-class slip-resistance.

"We've transformed the VaprTrek boot. The all-new VaprTrek boots are even lighter than before while providing better traction, durability and comfort," explained Charley Bryant, Irish Setter Product Merchant. "You just have to try them on to feel the instant comfort. And that comfort is engineered to last, so you'll be comfortable all day."



About Irish Setter:

Based in Red Wing, MN, Irish Setter is a division of the Red Wing Shoe Company that produces a full line of performance hunting boots and rugged outdoor casual footwear. Irish Setter continues to use leading technologies and the finest materials to offer customers the highest quality outdoor footwear. For more info, visit www.irishsetterboots.com.

Media Contact:

For more information, HOW members should contact Kim Emery at Firefly Publicity at: kim@fireflypublicity.com.

HOW Supporting Member News

Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever Partner with the Monarch Joint Venture

St. Paul, MN: Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, in partnership with the Monarch Joint Venture, are excited to announce the launch of the [Miles for Monarchs](#) campaign!

[Miles for Monarchs](#) is an exciting new way to **support conservation** efforts in pheasant and quail country through athletic activities. By running, walking, biking, hiking or paddling, individuals and communities can host or join with existing fun runs, 5k's, or other events with the purpose of funding **critical habitat** projects for monarch butterflies and upland birds across North America.

Every dollar raised through the campaign will fund national habitat, research, and education work to protect monarchs and other pollinators through programs implemented by Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever, the Monarch Joint Venture, and partners. These programs include youth habitat pollinator projects, demonstration habitats and field events, and educational seminars.

Ways to Participate:

1. [Make a Direct Donation](#)

- Receive a Miles for Monarch T-shirt for donations of \$30 or more.

2. [Sign-up to Become a Fundraiser](#)

- Register for an existing run/walk or other event.
- Leverage the event to promote and fundraise for monarch conservation.
- Get Miles for Monarchs gear for you and your team.
- Not a competitor? Do it on your own by creating a mileage and dollar goal.

3. [Host an Event](#)

- Communities and organizations can organize their own fun run, 5K, or other outdoor activity to raise funds for butterfly conservation through the Miles for Monarchs campaign.
- Dedicate a portion of funds raised from an event to a local habitat initiative.

This campaign is an opportunity to simultaneously raise funds for local conservation projects and contribute to the national effort. Please contact Drew Larsen (DLarsen@PheasantsForever.Org, 308-293-1194) or Cora Lund Preston (cora@monarchjointventure.org, 651-222-7631 ext. 705) with any questions or to find out more about how your community can get involved.



HOW Supporting Member News



HOW Supporting Members Win Awards at 2019 ICAST Show

Orlando, FL: The 2019 ICAST show (International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades) held in Florida from July 9-12 was another great one, showcasing the products of some of the premier companies in the fishing tackle industry. More than 14,500 industry representatives from the global sportfishing industry attended the show to see the latest innovations in fishing gear, tackle, accessories and apparel. This year, a total of 1,004 new tackle products and accessories were entered by 303 companies into 29 “Best of Show” categories in the New Product Showcase, all vying for the overall ICAST 2019 “Best of Show” award.

Just like last year, many of the top new product awards were won by our innovative **HOW Supporting Members**. Here is the list of *Best of Show* category winners from our corporate members:

Freshwater Reel

[Shimano American Corporation](#)
SLX DC Baitcasting Reels
Contact: [John Mazurkiewicz](#)

Saltwater Reel

[Shimano American Corporation](#)
Stradic FL Spinning Reel
Contact: [John Mazurkiewicz](#)

Eyewear

[Costa](#)
WaterWoman
Contact: [Heather Miller](#)

Fishing Line

[PowerPro](#)
Moon Shine Braid
Contact: [John Mazurkiewicz](#)

Tackle Management

[Plano Synergy](#)
Plano EDGE
Contact: [Angelica Vazquez](#)

Cooler and Bait/Storage

[Plano Synergy](#)
Frabill Magnum Bait Station 30
Contact: [Angelica Vazquez](#)



Best New Eyewear:
Costa WaterWoman Sunglasses



Best New Cooler/Bait Storage:
Frabill Magnum Bait Station 30



Best New Freshwater Reel:
Shimano SLX DC Reel

Congratulations to all of the winners!

For more info on ICAST, check their website: www.icastfishing.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
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
Howard Leight Shooting Sports - www.howardleight.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.outdoorquidemagazine.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
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

Fur Takers Chapter 7-B Fall Rendezvous:

(www.hoosiertrappersupply.com)

Held at Hoosier Trapper Supply

Greenwood, IN

September 28, 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*.