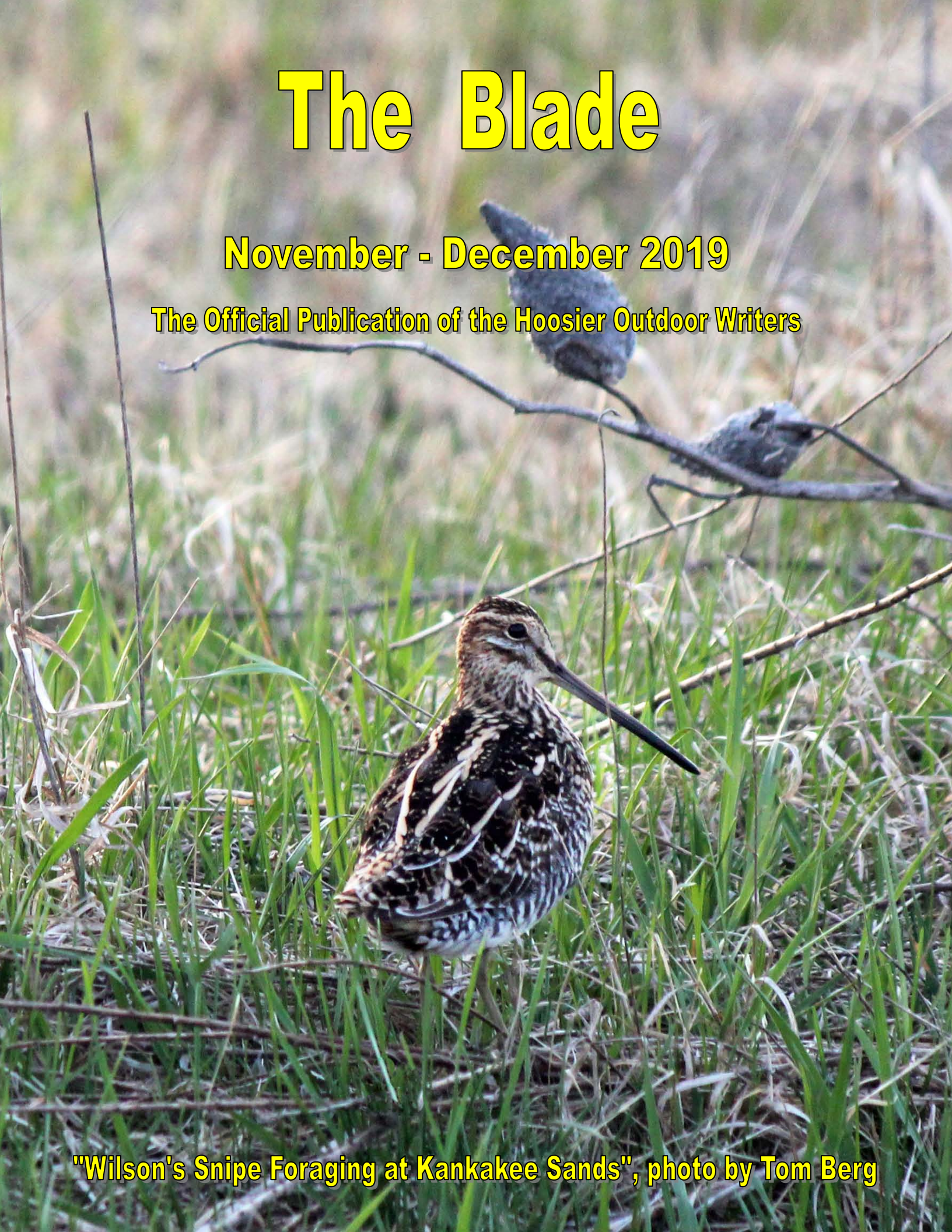


# The Blade

November - December 2019

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Wilson's Snipe Foraging at Kankakee Sands", 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.

## Hoosier Outdoor Writers Executive Council

### Board Chairman

Troy McCormick  
3604 Sea Pine  
Jeffersonville, IN 47130  
[troy@naturalconcepts.net](mailto:troy@naturalconcepts.net)

### President

Mike Schoonveld  
299N 100E  
Morocco, IN 47963  
[mike@bronature.com](mailto:mike@bronature.com)

### Vice President

Kenny Bayless  
9772 E. Stewart Ave.  
Terre Haute, IN 47805  
[kwbayless@aol.com](mailto:kwbayless@aol.com)

### Executive Director

Tom Berg  
2142 Nondorf St.  
Dyer, IN 46311  
[director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org](mailto:director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org)

### Advisor

Bill Keaton  
9494 West Base Rd.  
Arlington, IN 46104  
[bill@bishophillguesthouse.com](mailto:bill@bishophillguesthouse.com)

### Newsletter Editor

Tom Berg  
2142 Nondorf St.  
Dyer, IN 46311  
[director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org](mailto:director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org)

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Region 1 – Garry Burch  
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2020  
Region 3 – Mike Lunsford  
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2020

### At Large:

Doug Allman – 2020  
Jarrett Manek – 2020  
Bryan Poynter – 2020  
Dave Hoffman – 2021  
Ken McBroom – 2021  
Bob Sawtelle – 2021

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

**On the cover:** A Wilson's Snipe forages for food in the vast grasslands of the Kankakee Sands Nature Preserve in Newton County. That long bill helps the bird probe for insects and worms in the moist soil. Photo taken by Tom Berg, after the spring HOW meeting at the nearby Fair Oaks Farms.

# President's Message

by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

## *We Need A New Word*



I hate this ever-increasing PC world. We used to be able to call a light bulb a light bulb, but now it's not allowed since the word bulb may be insulting to... what? Maybe a tulip bulb or a person with an extra-abundant bottom end? We'd better call light bulbs illumination devices, at least for now.

I admit, I just made that up, but for an instant, you probably thought it was true, didn't you? You thought you'd been too busy getting ready for ice fishing season to get the news. Lordy, since this message is being distributed via the internet, it's probably true now. After all, if it's on the Internet - especially on Social Media, it's true. Spread the word! The world's bulbous-butt castes and cults will rest easy.

Is this hysterical? Decidedly, it isn't because it's no longer PC to use the word "hysterical" in the context of something being crazy-funny. First, because the word "hysterical" is derived from the Greek word for uterus and is inherently sexist; but also, there's no room for anything to be crazy-anything because the word "crazy" offends mentally "something" (ill - challenged - deficient - deranged - I don't know which term is currently acceptable) individuals.

So why do I think we, as outdoor communicators, need to invent a new word?

I was just giving the final edit to a column recently and I found the sentence, "Fishermen can help and should want to help." Whoops! Just in the nick of time I caught it and added "and women" to the sentence so the final version became "Fishermen and women can help and should want to help." Can't let our "lady anglers" off the hook and shun their help.

"Lady" anglers? Are you female fishermen offended? Is there such a thing as a female fisherMAN? Foremost, there aren't many common synonyms to call people who fish. At one time, the sentence I was editing for my column would have been acceptable. The word "fisherman" was construed to be somewhat gender neutral, as were the words chairman, spokesman, sportsman, management, manslaughter, manpower and others. Now these words are not so much gender-equal. It's maniacal - or perhaps woman-iacal or person-iacal.

Since my writing is often about people who fish, both boy-people and girl-people, what PC words are my choices? "Anglers" comes to mind first, but as I mentioned above, even that word must be somewhat masculine since the term "lady" anglers is often used when talking or writing about girl-people who fish.

So what do you think, fellow outdoor writers and speakers? Do you have any ideas of a word - old, new or made-up - which we could post on the Internet and thus insert into the modern lexicon to call a person who seeks fish that won't upset someone?

# 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 21.

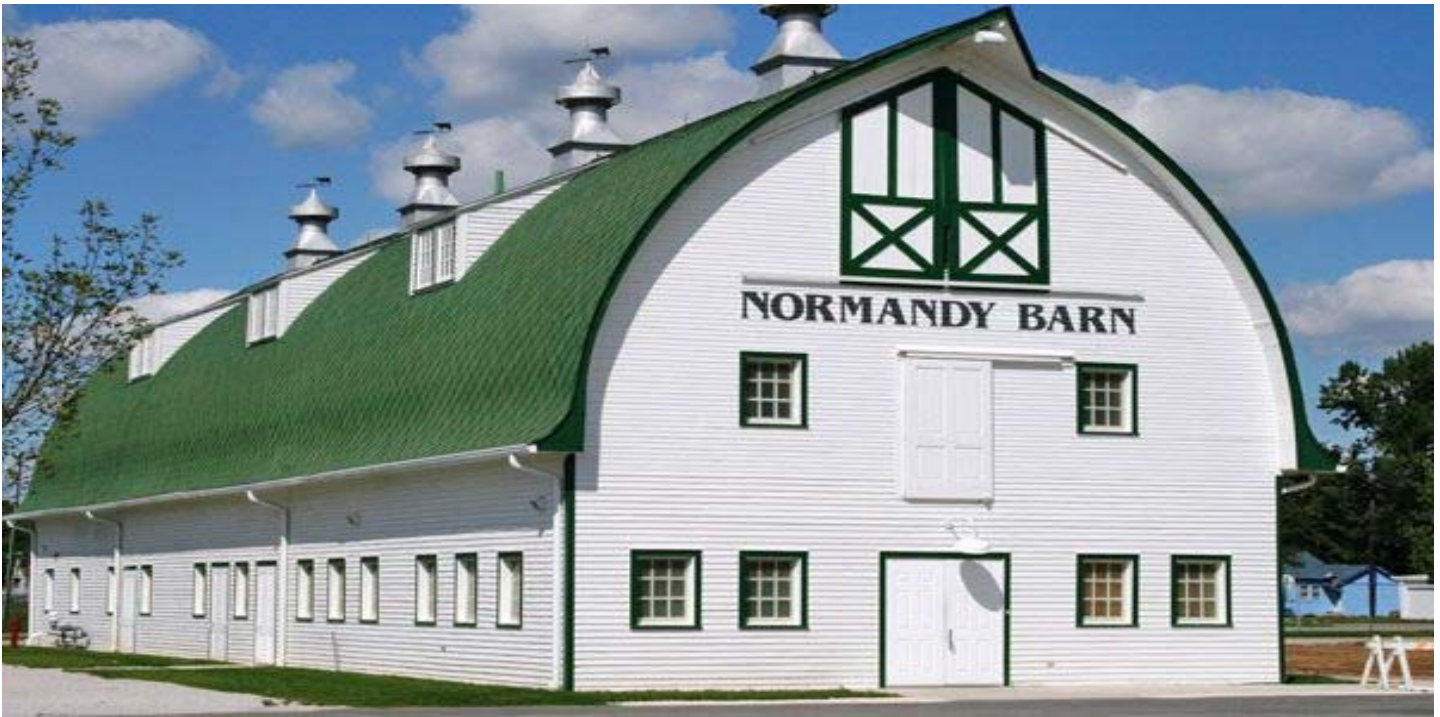
## Memorial to Deceased HOW Members

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



# Annual HOW Conference

## Make Plans Now To Attend The 2020 Annual Conference!

As announced in the previous issue of *The Blade*, the 2020 HOW Conference will be held in Indianapolis, in conjunction with the start of the Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show at the state fairgrounds. The annual meeting itself will take place at the historic Normandy Barn at the north end of the fairgrounds property, and we will have parking passes for each HOW member registered for the conference so they can get into the fairgrounds. The conference will take place over the weekend of **February 14-15, 2020**, with the main meeting scheduled for Saturday, February 15.

Although we enjoy moving the HOW conference around the state to explore new and interesting places, it's also nice to occasionally go back to our roots and have the conference in Indianapolis again – just like we did for many years. It will also be nice to have the conference on the opening weekend of the Indy BST Show again, so HOW members can spend time exploring all that the show has to offer.

The conference will be here before you know it, so it's time for you to start making plans to attend! See page 8 for a copy of the conference registration form. We will have plenty of interesting seminars and speakers at the conference, as usual, and there will be activities which everyone can enjoy, too. And don't forget about the famous HOW Raffle, either! The raffle at the meeting last year at Fair Oaks Farms was absolutely great, and we are hoping it will be even better this year at the fairgrounds!

As usual, HOW members and guests may attend as much or as little of the conference as their schedules allow. Many members come only for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, and that's fine. For those who are interested in arriving early for the conference, we will have our annual HOW Fun Shoot on Friday afternoon (February 14). That will be followed by a special Friday evening press party in the new upper level Lounge of the Coliseum, sponsored by our friends at Renfro Productions. Details will be forthcoming soon.

(continued next page)

Of course, all HOW members are encouraged to attend the Boat, Sport & Travel Show after the conference activities and throughout the entire 10 days of the show. Renfro Productions will provide media passes for HOW members which will be honored throughout the show.

Here is a brief preview of the speakers already lined-up to make presentations at the conference:

- **Roeslein Alternative Energy – Saving the Planet One Acre at a Time**

Brandon Butler, is the Director of Communications for Roeslein Alternative Energy (RAE), where he manages government affairs, public relations and marketing. Butler works to tell the story of how RAE is capturing methane on swine finishing farms and converting it into environmentally-friendly renewable natural gas (RNG). The company is committed to creating a market-based solution to addressing ecological and wildlife concerns.

RAE is the owner, operator and developer of renewable energy production facilities that convert agricultural and industrial wastes, along with renewable biomass feedstocks to RNG and sustainable co-products. RAE engages in these business operations with a focus on incorporating native prairie restoration.

All who care about fish and wildlife should be interested in learning more about the RAE plan to restore 30-million acres of native plants to our landscape through a market-based approach. The ecological benefits those plants provide directly impact habitats critical for countless game and non-game species.



HOW member and RAE Director of Communications Brandon Butler.

- **Stopping Asian Carp**

The National Wildlife Federation’s Drew YoungeDyke will present “Stopping Asian Carp,” outlining the damage this group of invasive species has done to native fisheries in the United States, the threat they pose to Great Lakes communities, and the current status of efforts to stop them. He will also present a history of the National Wildlife Federation and its work on conservation issues relevant to hunters and anglers, including through independent state affiliate organizations like the Indiana Wildlife Federation, with special guest Emily Wood, executive director of the Indiana Wildlife Federation.



Senior Communications Coordinator Drew YoungeDyke from the National Wildlife Federation Great Lakes Regional Center knows how important it is to protect our lakes, rivers and other waterways from the many species of invasive Asian carp.

Drew YoungeDyke is the senior communications coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation Great Lakes Regional Center, an outdoor writer, and an avid hunter and angler. He hosts the National Wildlife Federation Outdoors Podcast, writes a monthly column for Woods-n-Water News, and frequently contributes to other publications such as National Wildlife magazine and Michigan Out-of-Doors magazine. He also contributes to the NWF Outdoors Blog. Drew is a member of OWAA and AGLOW.



Indiana Wildlife Federation Executive Director Emily Wood (right) will update HOW members on some of IWF’s in-state work and how they work in conjunction with the National Wildlife Federation.

- **Forestry in Indiana: “Why should Hoosiers be engaged?”**

Perry Seitzinger is currently a consulting forester and the owner of Seitzinger Forestry, LLC, which is a comprehensive forest management firm based in west central Indiana. Seitzinger is also the chairman of the Indiana Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society and is very active in advocating for science-based forest management in the Hoosier state.



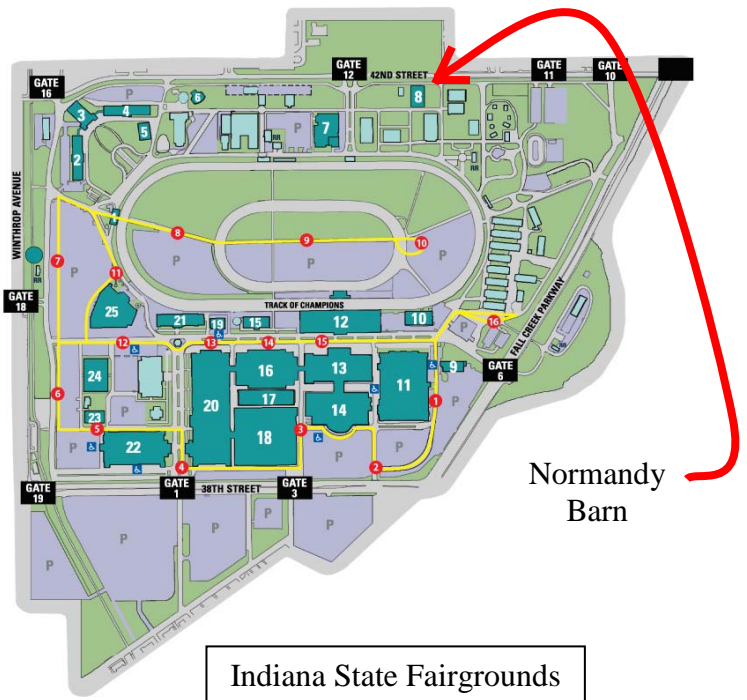
Seitzinger will walk us through the history of forests and forest management in Indiana and the challenges facing forest conservation efforts today. Topics will include the forest industry, public policy, forest wildlife management, and public and private forestland management. Most importantly, he will provide answers to the question, “Why should Hoosier outdoorsmen and women be actively engaged in forest conservation?”

Consulting Forester Perry Seitzinger will discuss forest conservation.

In addition to the interesting seminars and speakers at this conference, we will also announce the winners of the annual HOW Awards-in-Craft contests. **Toyota Motor Sales** has once again graciously agreed to sponsor the writing, photography and broadcast contests, so there will cash prizes for the winners again this year. And speaking of contests, the Indiana **Turn in a Poacher (TIP) Citizen’s Advisory Board** has also sponsored a writing contest to encourage HOW members to promote the TIP mission again this year (see details on page 12). In fact, several members of the TIP board are expected to attend the conference so they can meet our members and personally hand out the awards to the contest winners.

During the business meeting portion of the conference, we will conduct our annual election and elect new officers and board members. A buffet lunch will be served immediately after the elections are completed.

More details on the conference will be forthcoming in the next edition of *The Blade*. Whether you plan to attend the events on both Friday and Saturday or just the annual meeting on Saturday, the trip to the Indiana State Fairgrounds will definitely be worth it. So start making your plans now.



# Don't miss the 2020 HOW conference!

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# Hoosier Outdoor Writers Annual Conference Registration

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**Where/When:** The Normandy Barn located inside the Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, IN. Conference dates: February 14-15, 2020.

This registration form is for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 15th (8:00am – 4:30pm)

**Information to appear on name badge:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name (if attending): \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact information:**

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City or Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a first-time HOW conference attendee? \_\_\_\_\_

**Early Bird Conference Registration Fees:**

(Early Bird pricing good until January 24 only. After January 24, add \$5.00 each to register)

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

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

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

Conference fee includes continental breakfast and buffet lunch on February 15, 2020.

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

**Tom Berg  
2142 Nondorf Street  
Dyer, IN 46311-1829**

Questions? Email all conference questions to Tom Berg: [thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net)



# **The 2020 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest**

**The Hoosier Outdoor Writers  
would like to thank:**

**TOYOTA MOTOR SALES**

**For sponsoring the 2020  
HOW Awards-In-Craft Contests**



# The 2020 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

## HOW CRAFTS AWARD CONTEST RULES

The contest year shall be for material published or aired from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. All submissions, including photography, must have been printed, aired, published or electronically posted during the contest year (entrant must have been a HOW member when the work was published).

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

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

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

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

### **RULES FOR SUBMISSION**

- 1) Contest entries must be in an electronic form. Entries must be emailed (or postmarked if mailing a CD or DVD) no later than midnight on January 15, 2020. Entries emailed or postmarked after that date will be disqualified. Send all entries to the proper contest coordinator (to be announced later).
- 2) An official HOW contest entry form must accompany each entry. The entry form must also be sent electronically. Please type entry details into the form (an electronic copy of the form will be provided).
- 3) Send no material that needs to be returned. No original material is required. As mentioned above, print contest entries and photo contest entries must be sent in an electronic form. In the broadcast contest, tapes, recordings and DVDs are welcome.
- 4) All submissions of print entries (either from traditional paper or electronic media) must consist of one electronic copy of each article with bylines removed. This file must be text only – do not scan tearsheets or newspaper/magazine pages. This electronic copy must be submitted as a Microsoft Word 97-2003 Document (.doc) or as a PDF file (.pdf). Entries not following these rules will be disqualified. As mentioned, print entry files must be emailed (or filed on a CD or DVD and mailed) by the deadline.
- 5) Entries into the broadcast category require only one tape or recording and may be sent by tape cassette, CD, VHS or DVD formats. Radio and television entries may carry the broadcast station's name and call letters if they are on "as aired" dubbed tapes. TV entries should be dubbed minus commercials if possible to facilitate judging.
- 6) Entries in the photography division must consist of one electronic (digital) copy of each photo. This electronic copy must be saved as a JPEG file (.jpg or .jpeg). Prints, slides and paper copies of photos will not be accepted. Please include a title for each photo entry. Digitally produced photos should not be substantially manipulated. Allowable photo enhancement is limited to standard shooting/darkroom techniques, such as color correction, contrast control and image cropping.
- 7) An individual article, photo or broadcast may only be entered in one category/division. Entering the same piece in multiple categories/divisions will result in the disqualification of duplicate entries.
- 8) There is a limit of two entries per category.

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

Troy McCormick, Email: [contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org](mailto:contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org)

US Mail: 3604 Sea Pine, Jeffersonville, IN 47130

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

John Martino, Email: [jmartinooutdoors@att.net](mailto:jmartinooutdoors@att.net)

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

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

Tom Berg, Email: [thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net)

US Mail: 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311

**CONTEST DIVISIONS**

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

**WRITING ARTICLE CATEGORIES**

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

**BROADCAST CATEGORIES**

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

**PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES**

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

**2020 HOW AWARDS-IN-CRAFT CONTEST ENTRY FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Category \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

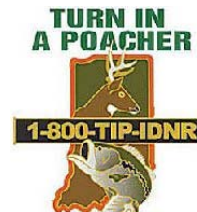
Where published/aired: \_\_\_\_\_

Publication/air date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Entries and forms must be emailed or postmarked no later than January 15, 2020**



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



Once again, the Indiana Turn in a Poacher (TIP) Citizen's Advisory Board is sponsoring a writing contest to encourage HOW members to promote the TIP mission, the hotline and support of the TIP Advisory Board. **This year the prizes have increased substantially (\$300 for first place; \$200 for second place; \$100 for third place).** So be sure to write your TIP article right away!

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

1. Brief description of TIP (see below—does not have to be verbatim)
2. TIP Hotline (1-800-TIP-IDNR)

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

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

To enter, submit an electronic copy of an article published between **February 1, 2019** and **January 31, 2020**. The TIP Citizen's Advisory Board will review all entries and will select the entries that best promote the mission of TIP and encourage citizens to get involved.

**Entries should be marked as "TIP" entries and sent to Contest Coordinator Troy McCormick.**

**They must be emailed or postmarked by February 3, 2020.** Send TIP Contest Entries to:

Troy McCormick, Email: [contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org](mailto:contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org) ← Preferred

U.S. Mail: 3604 Sea Pine, Jeffersonville, IN 47130

### What is TIP?

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

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

Citizens can help stop poachers in two ways. If you see, hear or learn about a poacher or any other fish and wildlife violation:

- Call 1-800-TIP-IDNR
- Submit a TIP online at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/7608.htm>.

If your TIP leads to an arrest, you may receive as much as a \$200 reward, and you can remain anonymous. More information is available at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2745.htm>.

# DNR News

## Division of Fish & Wildlife

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

**For immediate release:** Dec. 22, 2019

## Indiana Conservation Officers Investigating Shooting of Bald Eagle

Indiana Conservation Officers are investigating the shooting of a bald eagle in Lawrence County that occurred on Friday, December 20, 2019.

Shortly before 4:30 p.m., a Lawrence County Animal Control Officer and employees of Brown County Indiana Raptor Center were notified by a landowner south of the White River near Dixie Highway of the discovery of an injured eagle. The eagle, which had recently suffered an apparent gunshot wound, was treated for injuries, but died shortly thereafter.

Indiana Conservation Officer Ryan Jahn took possession of the carcass on December 21, 2019 and initiated an investigation into the shooting. A reward is being offered to anyone with information concerning this investigation. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Indiana Conservation Officers Central Dispatch at 812-837-9536 or their anonymous tip line at 1-800-TIPIDNR.

### **Media contact:**

Indiana Conservation Officer Jim Hash, phone: 812-972-2507, email: [jhash@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:jhash@dnr.IN.gov).



# DNR News

## Division of Fish & Wildlife

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

**For immediate release:** Dec. 17, 2019

## Lake Michigan Tributaries Stocked with Steelhead Trout, December 16-17, 2019

DNR stocked approximately 120,000 Michigan-strain steelhead trout into three locations along Lake Michigan this week.

On December 16, approximately 40,000 fish were stocked into the Little Calumet at Mineral Springs Road. On December 17, another 40,000 were stocked into Trail Creek at Meer Road and Salt Creek at West County Road 600 North.

These fish measure approximately 4.25 inches long and will stay in the streams until spring before migrating to Lake Michigan. Once there, the fish will spend two to three years in Lake Michigan and return to the streams they were stocked into to spawn.

Anglers should take care when fishing these areas if they catch undersized trout. These fish are under the legal size limit and are sensitive to being caught. If you are catching these fish, consider moving to a different area of the stream or try switching your method of fishing. These new fish are crucial to the continued existence of the fishery.

To view all DNR news releases, please see [dnr.IN.gov](http://dnr.IN.gov).

### **Media contact:**

Robert Ackerson, Mixsawbah State Fish Hatchery Property Manager, DNR Fish & Wildlife, phone: 219-369-9591, email: [rackerson@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:rackerson@dnr.IN.gov).





## 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 these pages 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 Mike Lunsford:

HOW Board member Mike Lunsford can often be seen driving down country roads in west-central Indiana, looking out the window in search of interesting birds to photograph. Here are two of his fairly recent findings:

“The bird picture shown at right is a **Great Blue Heron** (*Ardea herodias*) that I observed frogging along the bank of a lake in Vigo County,” said Lunsford. “This photo is my November ‘Nature’s Moment’ for the newspaper. These birds, as most people know, can be impressively big – as large as 54-55 inches tall! This one was pretty big.”

“Although herons live communally, they are loners when they hunt and eat, and they will eat small mammals if they can catch them (they have reportedly been seen eating muskrats).”



“This second photo (at left) shows an **Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*) that I caught flying right over my head here in Parke County,” Lunsford continued. “The osprey has been on the state’s endangered species list (ESL) for many years and is the only raptor that dives into the water for prey. Ospreys also have a special claw that enables them to catch and easily carry fish. I took this photo in October.”

Ospreys are making a big comeback in Indiana and hopefully they will soon be off of the ESL.



## Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors



### Report from Troy McCormick:

HOW Board Chairman Troy McCormick took a hunting trip out west earlier this fall, and while out there he took the time to visit some historic places. One of those places was the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument in Montana.

“While visiting the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument,” stated McCormick, “I was captivated by the apparent guardianship these two **Black-billed Magpies** (*Pica hudsonia*) exhibited to the monument and gravesite of the Last Stand Hill, where General George Custer and the US Army’s 7th Cavalry died fighting the Lakota, Arapaho, and Cheyenne Indians on June 26, 1876. This pair of birds flew from the burial grounds to the monument each time I approached either, as if to ensure that I paid my respects to those who had fallen here.”

“I call these photos ‘Guardians of Last Stand Hill’.”

“Magpies are members of the crow family, and they are widely considered to be one of the most intelligent animals in the world. They are capable of recognizing themselves in a mirror, and are able to play a game of hide-and-seek with performance levels comparable to that of a 3-5 year old human child. It has also been reported that magpies can be taught to mimic human voices, very similar to parrots. They can be found in parts of Europe, Asia, and North America, but to me, they will always be symbols of the Great West.”



### 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](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net)) for use in future editions of the “Interesting Bird Sightings” page. It does not need to be a rare bird. Your fellow HOW members would love to see your bird pictures.



# Adventures in Africa

Article and photos by HOW spouse Jerrilynn Bayless

When my husband Kenny goes hunting, I go adventuring. This time I brought a couple of friends along. They both approached me last winter with the request of next time we went to Africa, they wanted to go, too. Lisa and Jennifer met after we had all our plans made and even though this was going to be my 4th trip, I knew we were going to have the trip of a lifetime. We wanted to see all the animals in Kruger National Park, South Africa.

When we planned the trip we wanted a layover to break up the 16 hour flight to Johannesburg. Researching flights, I found one with 16 hours in Rome, Italy. Score! Watching YouTube for tips, we chose one of the Italian tours which fit perfectly in our schedule.

We spent seven hours with a professional tour guide and saw it all. I wouldn't have known what I was looking at or saw half of what they led us through without them. The Vatican City was first with the Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica and museum. The Pantheon, Roman Forum, Trevi Fountain and more were next and ended with The Coliseum and Arch of Constantine.

The next flight was the best sleep I've had in years. We all surprised ourselves with a good eight hours of solid sleep. We needed it, too, because we hit Johannesburg at a run to catch our next flight to Kruger NP. The airport was a couple of hours from the first of six nights staying in a different camp every night as we made our way down through one of the most awesome national parks in the world. Kruger NP covers 8,000 square miles. If you took Indiana and sliced it down in 4 sections, Kruger would be one of those sections. On the first night we entered the southern area and drove up the Blyde River Canyon. It is the third largest canyon in the world.



We entered Kruger NP half way up and spent the next 5 nights traveling south. We saw **The Big Five**: rhino, leopard, cape buffalo, lion and elephant. Lots of elephants. The baboon, hippo, zebra, warthog, jackal, hyena, wildebeest, tons of impala, nyala and more. We lost track of all the animals. We saw plenty of huge kudu, also.

(continued next page)

There were so many colorful birds, but the African fish eagles were a real stand-out. The most wonderful, though, at least for me, were the cats. We were extraordinarily lucky to be on a sunrise game drive and the guide saw a drag



mark across the road. He spotted a female lion eating a warthog she stole from a leopard right by the road. She was in the ditch eating and the leopard was circling around waiting to see if there was going to be anything left. A hyena was waiting behind the leopard. It felt like we were there an hour watching. Another day we spotted a male lion just lying in the grass. That mane was so cool. Further down the road the pride of females were doing the same. Right by the road. Spectacular.

Many times we laughed when we had the chance to say “Watch out for the giraffe (or zebra, elephant or kudu) in the road!”

We flew into Cape Town on the 8th day, rented an SUV and drove along the most scenic coastline in the world. We spent the next three nights in Airbnb’s on our way to Port Elizabeth. We also

went on a whale watching boat tour and saw Southern Right Whales.



From Port Elizabeth we flew back to Johannesburg to catch a few hours sleep and then meet back up with Kenny.

We planned to go on a hot air balloon ride and tour the Cradle of Humankind together. We saw Lucy’s bones and walked in the cave

where the oldest (2.4 million years) hominid remains were found.



Truly the trip of a lifetime, right?

# Thank God and My Surgeon

by Rich Creason

A year ago this month, Susie rushed me to the hospital at 1:00 AM because my pulse was racing. The emergency room staff hooked me to machines, stuck needles in my arm, and started doing tests. Four hours later, my heart rate and blood pressure were normal (they never found out what caused that problem), but they did run a scan which found a problem they had not anticipated.

Their test showed I had a large (2.5 inch) tumor on my kidney. This result started a year-long series of tests, doctor visits, and finally, surgery and recovery. First, an appointment with my primary care physician. She sent me to a local urologist. I was forwarded on to Dr. Scott Farnham in Indianapolis. I heard he was one of the top five kidney surgeons in the country. He ran more tests.

I was told if I had to have any kind of cancer, kidney cancer was the best. It was usually localized, very slow growing, and easy (?) to remove, with few problems afterwards. My tumor was actually on the outside of the kidney, fastened low down, with nothing around close to cause complications. The doctor said he could probably do the surgery robotically without having to slice and dice (my words).

Surgery would be late September or early October. I would probably have to rearrange my schedule because I had an outdoor writer's conference in both September and October. Finally, a date was set for November 5.

August found me at the hospital in Indy for a biopsy. This was supposed to be quick and easy. They obviously didn't know me well. My blood pressure was high and the doctor had to inject something in my IV to bring it down fast. They didn't know I have a problem with needles and often my BP drops and my heart rate increases. The biopsy was over and I was returned to my room. A nurse sat beside me with a timer and had to check my BP every five minutes for an hour and then every 15 minutes. It took four hours for my blood pressure to return to normal. The results said my tumor was cancer.

A pre-surgery conference was set for late October. I met with several of Dr. Farnham's staff and discussed all of my current and past medical problems. I had met with an endocrinologist soon after my diagnosis. He put me on insulin so my blood sugar could be quickly adjusted to make the operation and recovery safer. One problem taken care of.

From earlier surgeries, we found I had trouble waking up from anesthesia and couldn't breathe on my own for several hours. We also learned the artery in my neck where an IV needle was used in my shoulder surgery didn't heal properly after the needle was removed. I was leaking blood into my neck every time my heart beat. It took another surgery to place a stent to plug the hole.

On the morning of my surgery, I lay on a gurney with an IV hanging out of my arm. Dr. Teal (not correct spelling, but I remember the duck part) came in to talk to me. He told me he was aware of my problems and had taken steps to make sure they didn't happen this time. We talked hunting and fishing as I was wheeled to the operating room. He had me totally relaxed when I arrived. The next thing I remember, I woke up in my room.

The hospital stay was somewhat blurred, I imagine from the pain medicine. I had needles, drains, and catheters snaking from various body parts. The surgeon had talked to Susie and our daughter after the procedure but I was still out. He said everything went perfect, the tumor was completely gone, and no further treatment was needed. I will return once a year for a scan to make sure everything is going as planned.

I have been home just over a week, and I will start driving again today. Dr. Farnham called me at home two days ago. I told him I thought I would be back to normal by now. He informed me I had just had major surgery and it would take a while to come back. He took me off the narcotic pain pills and said I could continue on over the counter stuff if needed. I'm still sore but that was expected.

I had a great group of doctors and nurses taking care of me and Susie helping me get my shoes and socks on. I had the members of our church praying for me and several of my writer friends had their churches in Mississippi, Tennessee, and Alabama doing the same. Apparently God listened to all those prayers and He still has plans for me.

# Deer Shaming Hurts Hunting

Story and photo by Brandon Butler

When I harvested my first deer back in 1993, you still had to take them to check stations. For years, friends and I had been going to Fetla's Trading post in Valparaiso, Indiana to watch deer roll in on Saturday night of opening weekend. We'd eat chili and watch an endless line of trucks pull up to have deer checked and weighed. Finally, after years of trying, it was my turn to bring a deer to the scale. The little doe in the back of my uncle's pickup truck wouldn't weigh much, but I couldn't have been prouder. Then I was 'deer shamed'.

As I stood by the truck waiting my turn to have my doe checked and weighed, my chest a little more puffed out than usual, a group of young men walked by and looked in the bed at my first deer. One of them, who never slowed down, said, "It's just a doe," and kept walking. Then another quipped, "Yeah, a baby doe." They all laughed. I was deflated. My pride was sucked away in an instant.

Then something strange happened in the hunting world. Outdoor television came into prominence, bringing with it this false sense of accomplishment through the accumulation of antler inches. A competition arose around hunting like never before. A new breed of hunter consumed with image and gadgets came into existence. Companies began marketing hunting like it was a war against bucks. And warrior face paint was needed to succeed in this battle.

Social media also came into play. Now everyone can be Insta-famous. "Likes" define the value of deer for too many. Lines defining ethics and morals have become more blurred as hunters, especially "celebrity hunters," continue to be exposed for poaching violations committed in the pursuit of the business side of deer hunting. It all needs to stop. We need to see a return to our hunting roots, and it takes all of us working together to make that happen.

First, don't ever do to anyone, especially a kid, what those fellas did to me. You have no idea what that person might have gone through to take that animal. For me, it was three years of freezing through cold sits in empty woods. Missing multiple shots with my bow. Learning the hard way, before finally connecting with my muzzleloader at 14 years old. I'll never take an animal that is more of trophy to me than that yearling doe. She might not have looked like much, but to me that doe was everything I had worked for and dreamed about.



A young hunter proudly pulls his trophy, a small doe, from the woods.

A lot of deer are going to be killed in the next few weeks. Remember that every deer is a trophy. Remember that when talking to another hunter and when talking about another hunter's deer. Before you pull the trigger, commit to being proud of the animal. I don't want you to ever say, "it's just a doe." Don't ever belittle a buck by saying, "He's not that big, but..." A living breathing creature died as the result of being hunted. That deer deserves the utmost respect. Hopefully, the venison will find its way a dinner table where it will be celebrated. When you take a bite, it doesn't matter if it was a giant buck, a button buck or a doe. A sacrifice was made so food could be had. Hopefully, the harvest was an honorable pursuit. Treat the result the same. Build other hunters up and respect the animal. Don't ever deer shame.

# HOW Member News

## HOW Members Enjoy The 2019 Deer Season

**Troy McCormick (Jeffersonville, IN)**

The following is from avid deer hunter and HOW Board Chairman Troy McCormick:

“Opening day of the gun season for deer in Indiana was almost magical this year as the rut was in full swing and the bucks were chasing does everywhere,” remembered McCormick.

“I was hunting private property in Parke County and was hoping to see one of the two 10-pointer bucks, or the big 12-pointer, that had been on my trail cameras during the weeks leading up to this day,” he continued. “The does were moving through the woods with bucks in tow, and I had a big one moving down the creek by 9:00 AM. As he stood broadside, seventy yards down the hill, and in my shooting lane, I heard a crash behind me and my cameraman had dropped the video camera into the leaves and snow! I closed my eyes, took a deep breath, and let the wide 8-pointer move on down the creek. Within ten minutes a rifle cracked and my friend Jimmy dropped him by the water’s edge.”



Troy McCormick smiles after harvesting this beautiful Indiana buck with his new Henry .308 rifle.

“Earlier, another friend and Pro Staffer, David, had harvested a tall-tined 8-pointer, doubling the number of bucks on camera for an episode of my Bootprints.TV show.”

“I decided to hunt a different property that evening, and self-film my hunt this time. A very quiet afternoon changed suddenly with just fifteen minutes of shooting light left. A doe was leading another big 8-pointer along

the tree line and down into the creek bottom behind my stand. I swung the video camera, tracking him on his downward path and bleated to get him to stop. My Henry lever-action .308 barked and he dropped in his tracks. That made three big eight-pointers and a ton of memories on opening day!”



Opening day success in the deer woods for Troy McCormick and his Bootprints.TV friends (shown L-R): Jimmy Silotto, Troy McCormick and David Blake. All three hunters harvested very nice mature bucks on the same day.

## 2019 Deer Season Continued

### Joe Martino (Kokomo, IN)

Here is a note from long-time HOW member and serious deer hunter Joe Martino:

“I had some success during the archery season here in Indiana,” reported Martino. “I decoyed this buck in with the Flambeau Boss Buck decoy. Watching him put on a show once he saw the decoy after I rattled him up out of a draw was awesome! It was one of the coolest hunts I have had.”

“On the morning on November 8th, I had just finished rattling a few minutes earlier when I looked behind me and saw him step up out of a draw and lock eyes with the decoy. He then began scraping and thrashing a tree in an effort to intimidate the intruder. When that didn’t work, he went through the entire routine again before starting ‘the dance.’ If you’ve never seen it, the dance is that slow, methodical, stiff-legged, sideways approach before the fight is on! That’s when he gave me a great shot opportunity.”



Joe Martino poses with another great Kokomo area trophy buck.



“The buck decoy does not guarantee success, of course. This was actually my first year to really use a decoy very often. I did spook a buck with it once, and the smaller bucks seem to check it out but don’t know what to think. The deer I harvested this year was the first mature buck that I saw when using a decoy and he read the script!”

“The does definitely don’t like the decoy too much, though. They generally don’t hang around long after seeing it, so that could be a drawback. But when the right buck sees it at the right time, it can be great.”

“This second photo (displayed at left) shows another interesting encounter with the decoy. After I shot my buck, this young buck came in and spent about 15 minutes deciding on whether or not it would be a good idea to challenge the Boss Buck decoy. It was amusing watching his mannerisms as he contemplated it.”

“In the end, the young buck decided not to chance it and disappeared.”

## 2019 Deer Season Continued

### Nick Martino (Kokomo, IN)

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

"My son Nicholas dropped the hammer on a giant this weekend! He has hunted so hard so this year, passing on some really good bucks - ones that most guys would never even think of passing up - but he had seen a few bigger ones during the season, so he was going to roll the dice and see what happened."

"On Friday, December, 6th, he bowhunted and saw a great buck just out of range. He had to work the next day on the first day of muzzleloader season, but afternoon found him in a stand."

"He again passed on a 130" deer, and a half-hour later, this buck stepped out. A perfect 70 yard shot from his Thompson Center Strike sent the bullet through the buck's lungs."



"This buck has 45" of mass measurements! I am proud of Nick for hunting hard and smart and for not compromising his expectations even as the season was winding down. His persistence and positive attitude paid off again this year."

"As hard as it is to believe, this is the second year in a row that Nick has taken a 160-170" deer. Now we can head to WI to ice fish next week without that weight on our shoulders!"

Nick Martino (above and left) with another huge Kokomo-area trophy buck. As can be seen, the antlers on this deer had very impressive mass. This was a trophy deer for anyone to be proud of, for sure!

**Congrats, Nick!**

## 2019 Deer Season Continued

### Dean Farr (Crystal Lake, IL)

Dean Farr's son Greg had a successful deer hunt this year. Here is what Dean had to say:

"My son Greg got his deer this year, a 7-pointer, and good size. He shot it at Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin. Being an Army retiree, I had privileges to hunt there. Great quality time spent with my son and good conversation with other hunters. I will be honest – I loaded my gun but did not chamber a round. It was just nice being in the woods. I sat on a log with 'rifle in hand', enjoying the fresh air and tranquility. If you haven't read Jim Posewitz's book *Rifle in Hand – How Wild America Was Saved*, you must."

"It was a good thing he got the deer when he did, too, as a winter storm was headed into Wisconsin and we were able to come home early. He christened my Remington Model 742 (first deer taken), a gun I have had for over 40 years but never really used. The gun is his now."

"In the woods Greg told me his Mom was worried he might be shot. I replied, 'Well, she never said anything to me, and I am probably more at risk of a heart attack from following you up and down these hills.' He laughed."



"The last time I hunted deer in Wisconsin was 1976 and I still have that license tag."

"It was neat driving up to Wisconsin on Friday, seeing the electric public service signs saying 'Arrive at deer camp, drive sober.' That's good advice."

"The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel newspaper also printed a reminder to everyone that traffic would likely be heavy on Sunday with all of the holiday travelers and deer hunters heading back home."

"It was another hunt to remember."

"Life is good..."

Greg Farr poses with the badger-state buck that he harvested while hunting with his father, Dean. From the photo it looks like this buck had drop-tines, which is always cool to see on a deer. Congrats, Greg!



## 2019 Deer Season Continued

### Tom Berg (Dyer, IN)

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg had another deer season. Here is his story:

“I was lucky enough to harvest a doe on opening weekend,” said Berg, “but I never saw a buck. So a few days later I tried again. After a fruitless morning hunt, I got back in the stand around 1:45pm. Nothing was moving, as usual for mid-afternoon, but I got my binoculars and camera set up and I sat and waited.”

“At about 3:25pm I finally saw a deer. It was a small doe out in the eastern field. Almost immediately two small bucks also walked out and started feeding in the corn stubble ahead of her. One of the bucks was just a spike buck and the other was a 4-pointer or possibly a 6-pointer. It was hard to tell, even with the binoculars.”

“I was busy watching the two bucks and the doe for several minutes, when I happened to glance out the other window to the western field. There, already halfway across the field was a larger buck, walking fairly fast and heading northeast. He had come out of the property to the south, and was probably about 80 yards out. I quickly put the binoculars on him and although I didn’t take the time to count his antlers (he was moving too fast to dilly-dally), I could see that he was definitely bigger than the 4-pointer in the eastern field.”

“I put down the binoculars and pointed my Henry .308 level-action rifle out the window and tried to find him in my riflescope. He was still walking fast and he was already almost out of my field of vision, and by the time I got him in the scope I was afraid I was not going to get a shot. He was probably 90-100 yards away by now, and I only had about one second to put the crosshairs on him and pull the trigger. I was not in my comfort zone!”

“I squeezed the trigger and the gun went off with a loud bang. I did not see him jump to reassure me the bullet hit him, but he immediately took off running to the northeast. After a few bounds he was already out of sight. It was a tough shot and I wasn’t sure if I hit him or not.”

“It had been about 10 minutes since I took the shot, so I texted my friend Mike to see how long I should wait before going to look for him. Typical funny response from Mike: ‘Go now. He’s either down or he’s in the next county.’ I decided that was a good idea, since I didn’t want to look for him in the dark.”

“I got down from the stand and searched along the north-south treeline until I got to the next field. No deer. I looked ahead and into the nearby treeline scrub, but still didn’t see him. I walked through the treeline and came out on the eastern side to check the picked cornfield. Nothing. I walked that area and on north for a good 100 yards or so, and then I heard Mike driving towards me through the western field.”

“Mike and I talked and I showed him where I thought it ran. I went back to checking along the treeline, and Mike started looking along the edge of the thicker trees. A few minutes later I suddenly saw the buck laying in the corn stubble just on the other side of the treeline. If I had walked a little farther to the south I would have found him right before Mike got there!”

“I walked up to the buck and saw that it was a 7-pointer. It was my biggest buck to date, so I was very happy. All in all, it was a great day and an unforgettable hunt!”



Tom Berg smiles over his best buck to date.

## 2019 Deer Season Continued

### Ken McBroom (Benton, KY)

HOW past-president Ken McBroom loves deer hunting, and he was happy to be able to get out again this year. “As the years roll by, I find that I enjoy the simpler things in life,” stated McBroom. “For many years I only shot mature bucks with my bow, but now I find great pleasure in grabbing my rifle and heading into the woods near my home to hunt whatever might show up. Don’t get me wrong, I think I’ll always target mature bucks during the rut with my bow. It’s just something I enjoy. But I can promise that after some health issues kept me out of the woods for bow season this year, I’ll never take hunting for granted.”

“This season I was fortunate enough to heal up in time to make the opener of gun season with my new .44 Magnum Henry lever-action rifle on my shoulder. I thought about adding a scope to the Henry, but after missing the archery season decided I wanted to keep it challenging. I left the factory buckhorn sights attached and hit the range. The Henry .44 shot like a dream and the best group was shot with the least expensive ammo I could find. It’s the perfect gun for a ragged old meat hunter like me.”

“As always, there was much fear of the hunter orange army beating me to the small parking area accessing the public ground I hunt. I got there nearly two hours before daylight to beat the army and to take my time getting ‘back in there’. I made it to my favorite blowdown where I had taken two deer last season and constructed what we called a hog-blind when I was a kid. It was just piled-up river cane and dead limbs for concealment. I was sipping a cup of hot coffee sitting on a thick foam seat left over from an old treestand that my buddy backed over with his truck. The sun slowly rose and the woods came to life. I never saw another hunter.”

“I glimpsed some movement through the river cane in front of me and got into hunting mode just in case. I set the coffee on the old dead log and readied the Henry. I was beginning to wonder, but over the years I’ve learned through hard lessons to give it a few more minutes when you think it ain’t going to happen. More times than not, or at least fairly often, it does. This time proved to be one of those times and the little 7-pointer stepped out and presented the perfect broadside shot. He was just 30 yards away.”

“I actually ended-up with two deer that morning. The second was a young doe, perfect for the pot. I can’t complain about missing the archery season, though. I’m alive and opening morning was rewarding enough. I’m learning the swamp that I hope to hunt for many years to come and the old hog-blind is fast becoming my favorite spot. It’s my favorite because of the ease of getting to, its superb concealment and most importantly its superb location and deer producing qualities. I thought about deer hunting one more time but the freezer is full. Besides, I saw a bunch of squirrels that morning and can’t wait to shoulder my Henry .410 lever-action shotgun and get ‘back in there’ for some good bushytail hunting.”



Ken McBroom with the nice buck he harvested on opening day with his new Henry .44 Magnum lever-action rifle.

## 2019 Deer Season Continued

### Rick Bramwell (Pendleton, IN)

HOW past-president Rick Bramwell has been hunting deer for decades, and he still loves it. Here is his story from this year:

“One day during the Indiana firearms deer season, I drove to my two-acre woods in Henry County,” remembered Bramwell. “With wind gusts up to 60 mph, I didn’t expect to see a deer. Heck, in three years I’ve only seen two deer there. However, three years ago a real bruiser passed by my trail camera.”

“It was not my purpose to hunt that day, but to see if a recent rain softened the soil for a certain large hoof print I had seen way back in early October. I needed some encouragement. The upcoming Thanksgiving Day holiday would be my last chance to harvest a buck during the Indiana firearms season.”

“The strong gusting wind pushed me down the long farmer’s lane to the wood edge. Slowly I walked and looked, stopping three times to dab a little Code Blue Doe Estrous gel above faded scrapes. I knew this was not the old buck’s home territory, but hoped my periodic salting of the mine might get him to linger if he passed through again.”

“On the last rub, I took off my gloves and put them under my arm to apply more lure. That stuff really stinks and I did not want to wear it. I turned into the picked corn without seeing a single track. My gun was left in the truck for this was nothing but a 20-minute recon mission for fresh sign.”

“I noticed when I got back to the lane that my gloves were missing. I went back knowing that leaving my scent would discourage any deer from sticking around. Unfortunately, camo gloves in dim light are difficult to see. I did not find them.”

“My plan on Thanksgiving Day was to be in my ladder stand before daylight, sit until 10 am, and then find my gloves. Then I would have to make haste to one of two Thanksgiving dinners. Outside of taking a state park doe and a big coyote, my luck in general has been pretty bad this hunting season. Once, I forgot my crossbow. Another occasion found me calf-deep in a swamp I thought was a shortcut.”

“Falling asleep quickly did not happen for me that night, and when the 6:30 am alarm rang I rolled over and went back to sleep. When I finally got up and made it to the woods, I found no tracks at all. Even if I would have risen early it would have been a waste of time. Now I just needed to go back for my missing gloves.”

“Instead of parking my truck in the farmer’s barn lot, I drove to the end of the lane. I grabbed my Mossberg Predator .450 Bushmaster and made haste to find those gloves. It was 10:47 am. I only took about five steps and



Rick Bramwell shows off the mature buck he harvested against all odds on Thanksgiving Day this year.

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(continued from Rick Bramwell previous page)

noticed something dark about 400 yards across the next cornfield. I peered through my scope for a look-see.”

“A deer with its nose to the ground was walking at a fast pace headed south. ‘Buck on the scent trail of a hot doe,’ I hoped. The animal was too far away for me to see antlers, but I hurried along the north edge of the woods and turned south. The two rows of unpicked corn gave me cover as I moved close to an old fencerow.”

“I expected the buck to turn when he came to the fencerow. If he came west, I would be waiting. Through the scope, I marveled at the body size of this animal. The excitement was building as he did, indeed, turn my way. I could now see antlers. What good fortune! Had I been in the stand behind me at first light, I would have already found my gloves and been gone. Two minutes, either way, and I would have missed seeing this deer.”

“At about 70-yards, the buck turned broadside. I had a good rest on the side of a tree. I was on him, but the temptation was strong to let him get closer. Patience is not one of my virtues, though. At the report of my gun, the buck turned and jumped the fence. I missed, I just felt it. I ran across the old fence row, hoping against all my bad luck to see this buck down. About 40-yards away, I saw his white belly.”

“The landowner, Mr. Conley, drove his tractor over to the buck. We slid this big ole boy into the front-loader. On our way across the picked corn, Conley looked down and said, ‘There are your gloves.’ In all the excitement I had completely forgotten what I came for.”

“The old warrior buck had been in a fight recently. His lower jaw was broken and some teeth were missing. His rack had regressed to eight points, too. But he was big - I estimated the field-dressed weight to be about 240-pounds. Thanks to the forgetfulness of an old hunter, this is a Thanksgiving I will never forget.”

## **Avid Angler Brian Waldman Loves Fall Fishing**

“I know a lot of our members, and outdoorsmen in general, look forward to fall for the many hunting opportunities available,” said Active HOW member Brian Waldman. “However, as an angler, I look forward to fall for another reason – the outstanding fishing I can expect. Shortly after Labor Day, our waters start getting a little less crowded as the kids get back to school, the weather starts turning cooler, and most recreational boaters begin to think about putting the boat away for winter.”

“Once hunting season arrives, another contingent of anglers is taken off the water, headed into the woods and on the rivers pursuing deer and waterfowl. Those of us left out on the lakes now find a much quieter, peaceful time on the water. The fish are beginning to put the fall feedbag on as they replenish their reserves for the winter ahead, too. This fall has been no exception.”

“Myself and a couple friends have been hitting the local reservoirs, chasing crappie and bass, which are now grouped up in the deeper, colder waters. We’ve made visits to Cataract, Glenn Flint, Heritage and Eagle Creek reservoirs here in central Indiana over the past month, and the fishing has been great. Water temperatures are now down into the low 40s, but the fish are still biting, even as we push our way past Thanksgiving, into December. We will keep launching the boat as long as soft water allows, and keep catching fish, each trip seeing less and less anglers on the water.”



Brian Waldman with a great fall largemouth bass.

# Rick Bramwell Experiences More Hunting Adventures

HOW Past President Rick Bramwell enjoys all types of hunting, from deer hunting to rabbit hunting. Before he harvested this year's deer on Thanksgiving (see previous pages), he had a couple of other hunting trips. Read on to hear more about them.



**Above:** Bramwell's friend Tom Daily shows one of the put-and-take pheasants from their hunt. **Right:** Rick Bramwell struggles to lift the large coyote he shot while deer hunting this year.

"After a two-day visit with my daughter Jourdan in Nashville, I got back to hunting," he said. "I needed some woods time after negotiating all the traffic. Were it not for GPS, I would still be lost."

"My next adventure was with friend Tom Daily on a put-and-take pheasant hunt at Huntington Reservoir. He has a couple of fine bird dogs that go on point when they find a bird. We were allowed two pheasants each, and we flushed three and shot two. My poor wing-shooting was exposed when I missed two shots at a cock pheasant. Tom, a lifelong trap and sporting clays shooter, seldom misses."

"My main mission for the day was not to hunt, but to deliver Tom to a surprise birthday party. He turned 80 the day before."

"After the physically

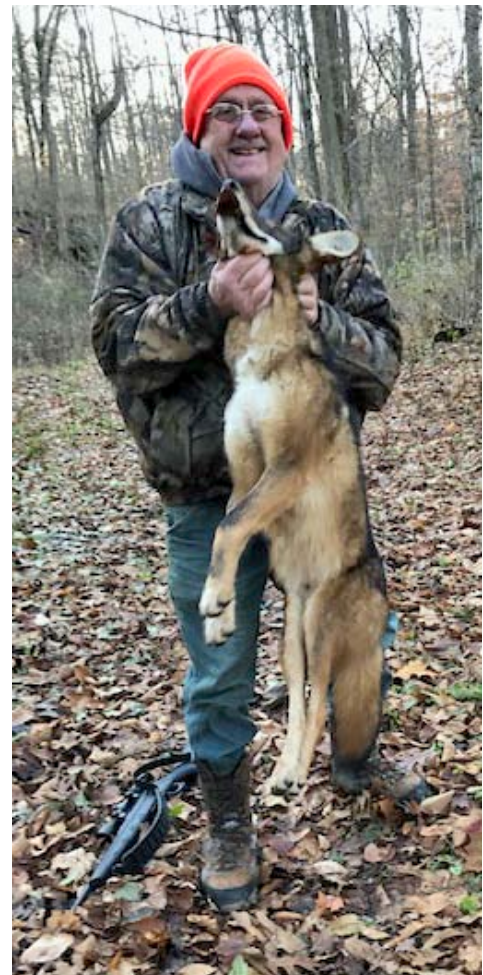
challenging hunt at Whitewater State Park, I was ready for a ride to my deer stand. Another friend, Larry Lawson, invited me on a hunt to Union County. He pulled an ATV out of the barn and I hopped on. Larry dropped me off at the edge of a woods. "You will find a tripod stand about 300-yards ahead, just off the field edge," he said."

"I found it, but there was standing water on the seat. While I was using paper towels to dry the desired destination of my posterior, two does ran under me. They acted like the devil was chasing them and indeed, he was. I looked back from where they came, hoping to see movement. I sat down and shouldered the borrowed Remington .308 rifle. Larry assured me the gun was sighted-in. Suddenly, the largest, darkest coyote I have ever seen came out of the draw."

"The old predator was about to become the prey. He stopped between two trees just long enough for me to find him in my scope. He went down with the loud report of the rifle. Larry had been seeing this odd-colored coyote for a couple of years. I'm sure that wily old predator had killed many fawns and wild turkeys. I am planning to save his hide and have it tanned."

"After that exciting event, the woods grew calm with not so much as a squirrel to entertain me. We moved to watch a field edge the last half-hour of legal light. This was a productive hunt and an enjoyable evening in the woods."

"It was topped off with a fast ride back to the barn on the four-wheeler. What could be better?"



# Hunting South Africa's Exciting Cape Buffalo

by Kenny Bayless

After mentioning to my wife Jerrilynn I was planning my 10th annual pilgrimage to Africa, she lit up like a Christmas tree. She wanted to go, too! Read about her adventures on pages 17-18. As I told the girls, "See you later" at the airport in Johannesburg, I was having visions of my upcoming safari swirling in my head.

South Africa: I love this place. As I slowly strolled down the banks of the Crocodile River, sipping my first cup of coffee of the morning, I felt like I was in heaven. The turtle doves and guinea fowl were calling "Ka Ka Koo!"

The hunting lodge for Van Vuuren African Safaris sits at the base of Mamba Mountain with the Crocodile River flowing in front of it in a very peaceful setting. The stage was set for myself and friend Dick Patterson to test our shooting skills on Cape buffalo, bush pig, hyena and most of all, baboons! I arrived a week before Dick and was sitting in wait at night for a hyena and bush pig to be enticed to the bait.

On the day I arrived, the trail camera showed leopard, bush pig, brown hyena, honey badger, porcupine and civet cat all coming to the bait. That first night we used nightvision scopes on our rifles while the bait was being visited. Your senses stay very keen when you're sitting on a bait during the night, knowing a leopard could be a few yards away in the pitch dark! Cobus, my PH (professional hunter) says you don't realize a leopard is around until you feel his breath on your backside. He knows from getting up-close and personal with one a few years ago. Luckily, it only took a few stitches to put things back together for him.

One evening while sitting around the fire, Dick and Cobus started talking about Cape buffalo. It was like showing a bear a bee tree. Dick went on point for a Cape buffalo and bright and early the next morning we were off to an area where three bulls had been hanging out. The total width of the horns on a Cape buffalo determines its trophy status, and a bull with a 40-inch horn spread is a trophy for sure!

One of the bulls we were hunting was known to have 37+ inches of horn, another 40+ inches and the third even bigger! I rode with the owner of the property and as we pulled into the area, he pointed at a dark spot in some dense African bush and said "There's the bull!" I jumped out of the truck to warn Dick the bull was only a couple of hundred yards away and to be ready.

I manned my movie camera to record the hunt as the PH's loaded their guns. It's the law in Africa that you must have a PH back you up while hunting any of the Big Five (lion, leopard, rhinoceros, elephant and Cape buffalo). Yes, they were literally carrying the elephant guns.

As we started moving towards the bull, a female Cape buffalo noticed us and automatically went into a defensive mode and came to confront us. Cape buffalo are very protective of each other. Cobus stepped up with his double-barrel rifle and told us to get back while he put the gun to his shoulder. The sights were on her and if she would have taken one more step the hammer would have dropped. She was only about 30 yards away. When the herd shifted and started to move away, she retreated, and that's when Dick took aim at one of the bulls and sent the rifle slug to its heart and lung area. The entire herd thundered off with the bull amongst them.



The PH's struggled to keep up, and then Cobus yelled for us to get over there quick. The bull was laying there and they said to put another one in him to be sure he's dead. You would have thought Dick was a movie star from all the handshakes and flashes from all the pictures! As Cobus pulled the measuring tape out and read all those marks on it, he looked at Dick with a big smile and a nod saying "He's a 40 incher, my friend!" What a hunt!

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## Ellis Family Visits Wild Florida Rivers

HOW member Michael Ellis moved to Florida after retiring from the DNR, and he and his wife Willie have been enjoying life. “This autumn, we spent some time on the Rainbow and Withlacoochee Rivers,” he said.



**Above:** A bald cypress tree looks very picturesque on the Rainbow River in Florida.

**Right:** Two cormorants sunning themselves at a quiet spot along the Rainbow River, thinking about lunch, no doubt. Photos by Michael Ellis.

recreation center with all sorts of entertainment opportunities, both inside and out. However, our main focus was to take slow pontoon trips on the two rivers.”

“One day, we went on a half-day trip upstream on the Rainbow River. The next day we went on a half-day trip downstream to see where Rainbow River joins the Withlacoochee. The third day we hiked the network of trails. The fourth day, we did some bird watching and looking at late summer wild flowers. I know. I sound just like a naturalist/interpreter.”

“Some friends of ours who live in Dunnellon, Florida, invited us to stay at their Rainbow Rivers Club for a few days. The Rainbow Rivers Club has access to two of Florida’s incredibly beautiful rivers including the world-class Rainbow River with its crystal clear waters. The other nearby river is the Withlacoochee. The Rainbow River eventually joins with the Withlacoochee River, which flows into the Gulf of Mexico.”

“We stayed in our own cabin on the property. It was located next to their 55-acre nature preserve. The cabin had a full kitchen, living room, two bed rooms a full bath room, plus A/C, cable TV and high speed WiFi. Talk about roughing it!”

“The Rainbow Rivers Club also has a 5,000+ sq. ft.



“I’m writing this on Christmas Day, in Tavares, Florida. It’s supposed to be between 75 and 77 and mostly sunny. It’s a hard life!”

## Membership Changes and New Contact Info

The following HOW members have updated contact information:

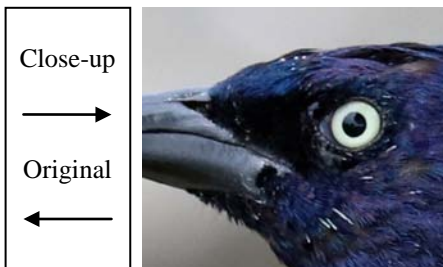
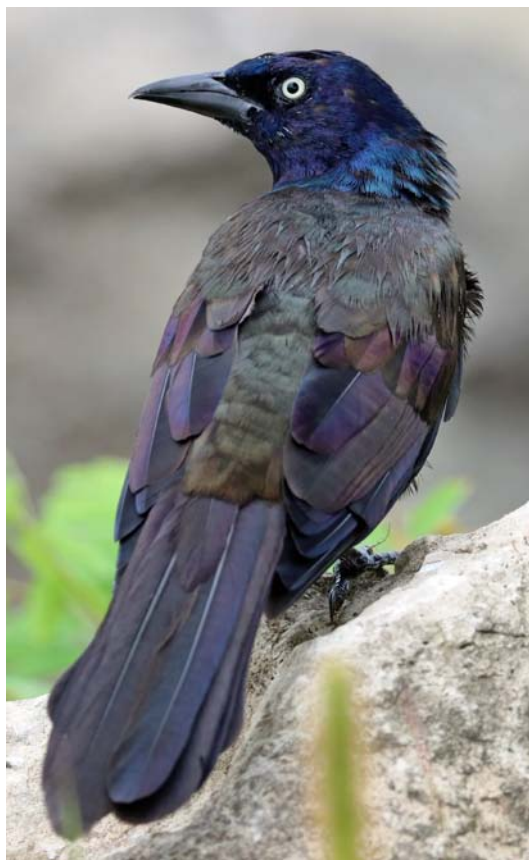
**Bob Jennings:** New email address: [Jenningsr500@gmail.com](mailto:Jenningsr500@gmail.com)

**Bill Keaton:** New email address: [wbkeaton1945@gmail.com](mailto:wbkeaton1945@gmail.com)

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

## Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by B'n'M Fishing Poles

### The Common Grackle is an “Open Ground” Forager



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue might have been too easy, since it was correctly identified by a total of 12 HOW members. Mike Schoonveld, Ken McBroom, Troy McCormick, Mike Lunsford, Phil Seng, Don Cranfill, Richard Hines, Bill Keaton, Scott Weaver, Jack

Spaulding, Brandon Butler and Rich Creason all identified it. When we drew a name at random for the rod and reel combo from **B'n'M Poles**, Mike Schoonveld was the winner. Congrats, Mike! We'll make sure the prize is sent to you.

As you can see in the photo to the left, the mystery creature for this issue was a Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*). Grackles are about the size of a robin or slightly larger. Although they appear to be plain black from a distance, their feathers are actually somewhat iridescent with hints of blue, purple and bronze. Adults have bluish-purple heads and a bright yellow eye, both of which are hard to forget. Their large black bill is very strong and helps them crack open acorns and other tough foods.

The common grackle is usually seen foraging on the ground for seeds and insects, and they have a habit of grabbing leaves and other ground litter with their beaks and flipping the stuff over to find any insects hiding underneath. Besides bugs and seeds, grackles often supplement their diet with larger prey like mice, salamanders, fish, worms, frogs, crayfish and

fledgling birds – just to name a few. Although farmers consider grackles a pest since they eat grain and corn sprouts, the common grackle population is actually in decline, like many other birds of North America.



For this issue, HOW Supporting Member **B'n'M Poles** will again 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 another premium 6-foot rod and reel combo from B'n'M Poles, the #1 crappie pole company in the world. See below for more info and the B'n'M website.

### Berg Poses Another Nature Photo “What Is It?” Question

Tom Berg has posed another Nature Photo mystery. The photo shown below is part of a close-up of an animal that lives right here in Indiana. It's found throughout the state, and you may even see it in your back yard.

This creature may be easy for some people to identify and harder 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 bird, for example, go ahead and guess “house finch” (of course, it's not a bird). But if you think you know the answer, send an email to [thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net). If you're right, you will be eligible for this issue's prize.



As mentioned above, **B'n'M Poles** will donate a Buck's Graphite Spinning Combo for the HOW member who guesses correctly for this issue's “What Is It?” nature question. Visit [www.bnmpoles.com](http://www.bnmpoles.com) to see their extensive line of fishing pole products, including their legendary crappie poles and new catfish poles. If multiple people guess correctly for this contest, 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.

### Fish Monkey Gloves: The Warm & Fuzziest Handshake You Will Ever Receive

**Destin, FL:** Everybody owns one of those super-soft, ultra-cozy fleece pull-overs, right? The garment that greets you like an old friend. Warm and comfortable as your favorite blanket. Looks good, too; fits like it was made just for you.

All of the above perfectly describe the fit, feel and function of Fish Monkey's new Task Fleece Fishing Glove, an ideal complement to those cooler fall days on the water and as easygoing as an old hat. Composed of advanced Tec Fleece, the Task Fleece Fishing Glove is tailored for maximum dexterity while casting, setting the hook and performing other critical angling functions. The high-end fleece material also offers specialized wind-blocking properties above and beyond its exceptional warmth and heat retention.

"I've worn a lot of fleece-style gloves over the years, but none of them fit or perform, from a fishing standpoint, even close to the Fish Monkey Task Fleece Fishing Glove," says Hall of Fame angler and host of *Lake Commandos* TV, Steve Pennaz.

"The first thing you notice about all Fish Monkey Gloves – the Task Fleece certainly included – are their remarkable second-skin fit. From each fingertip all the way to your wrist, there's zero slop in this glove. It feels like it was designed to match my hand. Each finger fits comfortably snug, allowing you to manipulate a reel handle with ease. The elastic wrist is tapered so it conforms to the contour your arm, locking in heat."

Beyond the Task Fleece Glove's sound fit and supreme comfort, Fish Monkey also stitched in a synthetic leather palm with a non-slip silicone grid that assures a rock-solid grip in all conditions. "The difference between this and other fleece gloves is that you can fish with it on your hands, instead of taking them off after a boat ride," adds Pennaz. "That sounds simplistic, but only the Task Fleece Glove gives you a sticky grip, whether you're clutching the boat's steering wheel, tiller handle, your rod, or the net. And the synth leather palm is soft and pliable, so it empowers your hands to perform tasks, rather than getting in the way."

Like its other angler-centric glove designs, Fish Monkey went above and beyond with extras such as a touch-screen compatible index finger for seamlessly manipulating your sonar screen or dialing digits on your phone. "This is my go-to glove for those in-between seasons – fall, early and late winter and even early spring," notes Pennaz. "It's a perfect medium-weight fleece that's not too thick. Even when it gets a little damp, it still keeps your hand nice and warm and continues to perform."

New for fall 2019, the Task Fleece Fishing Glove (MSRP \$26.95, sizes M-2XL) features Fish Monkey's "Cold Busting Technology," wrapping your hands in total warmth and comfort, letting you focus on casting lures and catching fish. Look for Fish Monkey's full line of angler-centric hand wear at your local retailer or visit their website ([www.fishmonkeygloves.com](http://www.fishmonkeygloves.com)) for more information.



## HOW Supporting Member News

### DJ Calls Makes a Call for Every Need

**Pekin, IL:** Serious waterfowl hunters know that a quality duck or goose call is an essential piece of equipment. Some of the best calls are made right here close to home, too, in Pekin, Illinois. Dave Jackson of **DJ Illinois River Valley Calls** has been producing excellent calls since 1976. Dave spent more than 27 years with the former PS Olt Co, Inc. of Pekin, where he earned the title: "Mastercall Maker". Derek Jackson has been working with DJ calls since 2003. He started custom hand turning calls along with the line of acrylic calls. He is learning the art and promises lots of new things to come. "We hope DJ calls will make your hunting experience more productive and pleasurable."

DJ Calls produces a huge variety of waterfowl calls, especially duck calls. They use an assortment of materials, including acrylic, micarta and all types of wood. Some favorite woods include walnut, maple, rosewood, cocobolo, cedar and others. There is a dizzying array of duck calls available in their online shop, including The Rice Lake Teal duck call, Gadwall duck call, widgeon calls, wood duck calls, pintail-widgeon calls, the Super Raspy Duck and the OL Hen call, just to name a few.



# DJ CALLS LLC

Of course, they also make goose calls. The SBR-11 Snow/Blue/Ross call is perfect whether you are hunting snow geese or any of the geese that fly with snows. They also make specklebelly goose calls, Canada goose calls and lots of different acrylic goose calls. They even make a swan call for tundra swans.

But just because DJ Calls makes so many waterfowl calls doesn't mean they make nothing else. No, sir. They also make calls for deer, turkey, crow, elk, predators and more! Of course, every call is made in the USA right here in the Midwest. For more info, contact David Jackson, [info@djcalls.com](mailto:info@djcalls.com), phone: 309-348-2112. You can also check out their website at [www.DJcalls.com](http://www.DJcalls.com) and view all of the standard and custom calls that they make. The website is especially fun for waterfowl lovers to visit.



# HOW's Supporting Member Websites

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

HOW members are encouraged to check these websites for general info and answers to product and service questions.

# Hoosier Outdoor Writers

## Application For New Membership

(Check Desired Classification below)

- \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ Active
- \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Associate
- \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Supporting
- \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ Active Student
- \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Associate Student

### Personal Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Company (Supporting members only): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Professional Information:

Employer (if outdoor-related): \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe your work in the outdoor field: Full Time \_\_\_\_\_ Part Time \_\_\_\_\_

2. Check your field(s) of outdoor work:

_____ Newspapers	_____ Magazine	_____ Radio	_____ Artist
_____ Books	_____ Photography	_____ Lectures	
_____ Television	_____ Teaching	_____ Trade Journals	
_____ Blog/Online Work	_____ Public relations	_____ Government Info - Ed	
_____ Other (Specify): _____			

3. Are you paid for your outdoor work? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

4. Your work is published or disseminated: Daily \_\_\_\_; Weekly \_\_\_\_; Monthly \_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_ times a year

Attach samples or other proof of your work in the outdoor field: newspaper clips, letters from station managers attesting to frequency of radio or TV broadcasts, lecture schedule or publicity clips, photo clips or artistic prints, title of latest book, masthead of trade journal showing your position, etc.

Send completed application and article copies to: **Tom Berg, 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311.**

I have read the principles and membership requirements of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers and would like to enroll in the classification checked above.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

## Who We Are

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

## What We Do

These are the purposes of HOW:

1. To improve ourselves in the art, skill and effectiveness of our craft, and to increase knowledge and understanding of the whole state.
2. To help ensure the wisest and best conservation of Indiana's resources, and the most wide-spread fair use of Indiana's recreational potential.
3. To provide a vehicle for bringing together and joining in common cause all Hoosiers who by profession, hobby or interest are devoted to the outdoors.
4. Conduct an annual Awards-In-Craft Contest among its members. The award winners are announced each year at HOW's annual conference.

## What We Stand For

These are what we strive to accomplish:

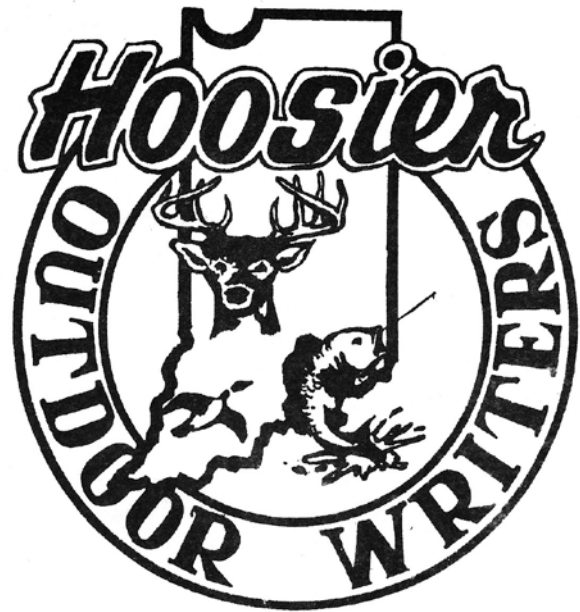
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor information.
4. To help friends and fight the foes of wisely conserved Indiana resources.

## Membership Requirements

Membership is open to anyone who meets one of the following:

### 1. Active

Members are those regularly engaged in the paid dissemination of outdoor-oriented information via newspapers, radio, television, internet/online, magazines, trade journals, books, photographs, art, lectures, or other fitting media. (Basic guidelines of "regularity" of dissemination are: 20 newspaper articles, photos or broadcasts a year; 20 online



articles, blogs, vlogs or podcasts a year; two national or four regional magazines or specialty journal articles a year, or one book, 10 lectures, or 20 bona fide outdoor news releases a year). The legal advisor for the association shall be an active member without meeting the basic guidelines.

### 2. Associate

Members are those who have a strong direct interest in the outdoors, either professional or personal, such as conservationists of all kinds; nature lovers; sportsmen; outdoorsmen; public employees in outdoor fields; educators teaching related subjects; fishing guides and tournament anglers, and retail-level dealers in outdoor goods, equipment or facilities.

### 3. Supporting

Members are those engaged in major commercial efforts directly related to the outdoors, such as manufacturers, distributors, service providers, manufacturers' representatives, or advertising agencies serving any of these.

### 4. Active Student

Members are those between the ages of 18 and 24 years who are bona fide college students with a major in journalism, communications, or natural resources sciences.

### 5. Associate Student

Members are those who are students who have an active interest in the outdoors in the areas of fishing, hunting, boating, hiking, nature, ecology, or in preserving the environment in general.

# Calendar of Events

**Cincinnati Travel, Sports & Boat Show:**

([www.renfroproductions.com](http://www.renfroproductions.com))

Cincinnati, OH

January 17-19 and 22-26, 2020

**SHOT Show 2020:**

(<http://shotshow.org>)

Las Vegas, NV

January 21-24, 2020

**HOW 2020 Annual Conference:**

([www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org](http://www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org))

Indiana Fairgrounds

Indianapolis, IN

February 14-15, 2020

**Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show:**

([www.IndySportShow.com](http://www.IndySportShow.com))

Indianapolis, IN

February 14-23, 2020

**Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo:**

([www.IndySportShow.com](http://www.IndySportShow.com))

Indianapolis, IN

February 20-23, 2020

**NRA 2020 Annual Meetings:**

([www.nra.org](http://www.nra.org))

Nashville, TN

April 17-19, 2020

**POMA 2020 Annual Conference:**

([www.professionalooutdoormedia.org](http://www.professionalooutdoormedia.org))

Franklin, TN

June 16-18, 2020

**OWAA 2020 Annual Conference:**

([www.OWAA.org](http://www.OWAA.org))

Jay Peak Resort, VT

June 27-29, 2020

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