

The Blade

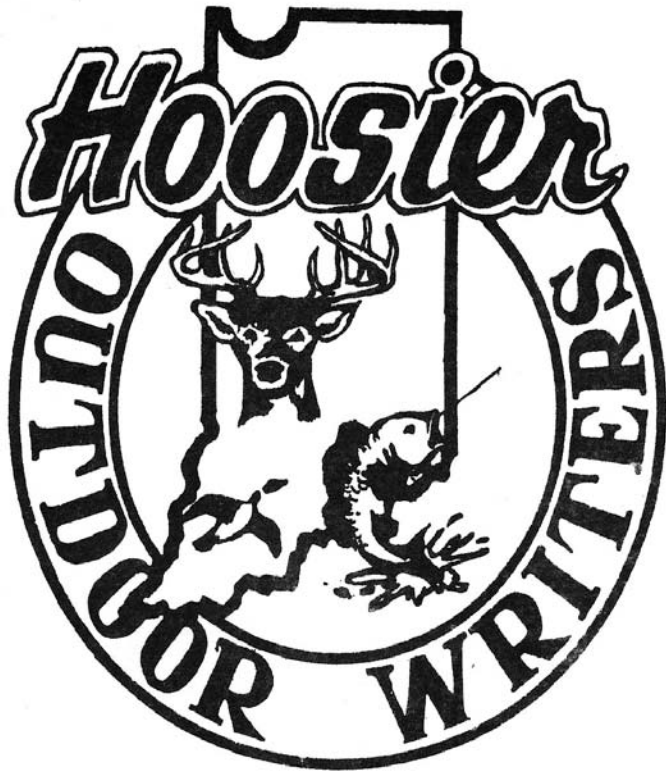
2020 Pre-Conference Issue

January - February 2020

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Winter Steelheading at the Creek", photo by Tom Berg



Hoosier Outdoor Writers

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

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On the cover: *This angler probes the icy waters of a local creek for Great Lakes steelhead during the wintertime. His lure of choice was a Mepps Aglia spinner with a silver blade, dressed with a black bucktail – an excellent lure for small-stream steelhead. Photo by Tom Berg.*

President's Message

by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

Shoe Laces, Stories and Subnivian Subjects



A great writer doesn't ever run out of topics. A pen-smith with the right knack can spin a yarn, an apt description or make an Oscar-worthy instructional video about how to tie shoe laces.

Most of the rest of us occasionally fall short of being able to win a Pulitzer or hit the New York Times best seller list with our latest treatise on footwear laces, and those of us with regular deadlines to meet often find themselves searching for a topic worthy of spending some keyboard time developing.

The DNR can help. They spend lots of time trying to help and by subscribing to their releases, I am constantly reminded when the next star-gazing hike or hummingbird banding event is going to be held, and where. Though I did attend a session once and write about hummer banding, I sift through several dozen news posts about turtle feeding, snowshoe hikes and others for each one I give more scrutiny. I will admit to clicking for further information for an event at the Dunes State Park about "subnivian subjects."

Another eye-catcher popped up just this morning which promises more ideas and storylines for me to expand upon to my readers. Find it at: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/2362.htm>. This is the list of upcoming fish and wildlife regulation changes and each one of them is a story or more. Some, like prohibiting the importation and stocking of golden mussels might take the talent of a "shoestring writer" to make news for a general audience, but others, like why ruffed grouse are proposed to be added to Indiana's list of endangered species could be a book-length manuscript for an industrious reporter.

Very, very few species have ever gone from being a "game" animal to an endangered species in Indiana - or in North America, for that matter. Name another, if you can. Sure, I'm old and remember well the last of the dinosaurs roaming across Hoosierland, but I also remember when ruffed grouse were abundant enough to have a loyal following of hunters, when ruffed grouse were routinely captured and shipped to Missouri to trade for wild turkeys, when wildlife management could and would be conducted on state and federal forest lands in Indiana.

How many stories can you writers, bloggers and video makers conceive with the announcement to legalize airbows and air rifles for hunting deer? From, "Ralphie, you'll shoot your eye out" to Ralphie shot a 12 pointer with a BB gun!

Storylines can come from anywhere. For us HOW members writing "local," the DNR releases are just one of many valuable sources for ideas. It's like panning for gold; you have to sift through a lot of pebbles to find a nugget. So lace up your boots and start digging. The nuggets are out there and occasionally you'll find a real gem.

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 19.**

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

2020 HOW Conference Preview



HOW members and guests will gather in the Indiana State Fairgrounds at the Normandy Barn on Saturday, February 15 for the annual HOW meeting. The doors will open promptly at 8:00am (Indy time).

The weekend conference activities will begin with the annual HOW Fun Shoot on Friday, February 14. All HOW members who enjoy the shooting sports should consider joining us this year! If you have never shot a clay target, this would be a great opportunity for you to learn. Our shooters are always willing to help newcomers discover and enjoy the sport. Fun Shoot coordinator Mike Schoonveld has contacted the Indiana Gun Club (Fortville, IN) and we will meet there at 12:30pm. The gun club is about a half hour drive from the fairgrounds. A special thank-you goes out to our friends at the **National Wildlife Federation** and **Winchester Ammunition** for supplying the shotshells for all of the Fun Shoot participants.

All conference attendees who arrive in Indianapolis on Friday evening are invited to attend a special press reception sponsored by **Renfro Productions** at the Indiana State Fairgrounds Coliseum. The reception starts at 5:00pm, and it will be located in the new upper level Lounge of the Coliseum. Kevin Renfro and some of his staff will be there to greet HOW members and welcome us to Indianapolis and the opening weekend of the Boat, Sport & Travel Show. There will be light hors d'oeuvres and beverages, and it will be a great opportunity to see old friends and make some new ones. All HOW Conference attendees and their spouses are invited. There will be signs near the doors of the Coliseum directing us upstairs to the press reception.

Renfro Productions has graciously supplied all HOW Conference attendees with parking passes and press passes for the BS&T Show, and after the press reception HOW members should feel free to walk over to the show and check it out. The press passes are good for each day of the show, so please use them more than once (the parking passes are only good for one day each, however).

On Saturday morning, the main HOW meeting will take place at the

HOW Members Will Gather at the Indiana Fairgrounds!

The 51st meeting of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers will take place on the weekend of February 14-15, 2020 (Friday and Saturday) at the **Indiana State Fairgrounds** in downtown Indianapolis. The fairgrounds is centrally located in Indy, so it will be easy to get to and easy to find. Have you been to a HOW conference lately? This is shaping-up to be another great conference, and since it has been many years since we had a conference at the fairgrounds in conjunction with the Boat, Sport & Travel Show, so you won't want to miss it.

RENFR
PRODUCTIONS
& MANAGEMENT

**INVITES YOU TO THE
MEDIA RECEPTION**

As we celebrate the opening of the

**66th ANNUAL
INDIANAPOLIS
BOAT, SPORT & TRAVEL
SHOW**

**23rd Annual
INDIANA
BEER, TURKEY
& WATERFOWL
EXPO**

**15th ANNUAL
INDIANA
MOTORCYCLE
POWERSPORTS
EXPO**

Friday, February 14th, 2020
Time: 5:00pm
Indiana State Fairgrounds Coliseum

H
**HOTEL
TANGO**
DISTILLERY
BAR

Hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks
and water provided plus a
ticket for one complimentary
domestic beer per guest.
Cash bar available.

Renfro Productions also produces:

**66th ANNUAL
Ford
CINCINNATI
TRAVEL,
SPORTS &
BOAT SHOW
Jan. 17-19 & 25-28**

**Mid Annual
INDIANAPOLIS
FALL
BOAT & RV
SHOW & SALE**

historic Normandy Barn near the north end of the fairgrounds. The meeting will open at 8:00am with registration and a continental breakfast/coffee hour. Mingle with other HOW members and greet old friends. The main meeting will begin at 9:00am as Amy Howell from the Indiana Office of Tourism Development greets all conference attendees. She will talk about tourism in Indiana and what is happening in 2020. She will also distribute travel guides and press kits.

Here is a brief preview of the seminar speakers who will 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.

- **Learn to Catch Crappies from Any Body of Water**



Tournament crappie angler Bret Cunningham is a life-long fisherman. As a youngster he started fishing farm ponds stocked with bass and bluegills, but as an adult he has moved on to the competitive world of crappie tournament fishing. He has competed in over 100 state and national tournaments, and he won the 2016 Indiana Slab Masters Classic and finished 2nd in the 2018 and 2019 Classics. He also won the 2016 Crappie USA event at Patoka Lake and finished 8th in the 2018 Crappie USA National Championship.

Cunningham has learned how to show up to a body of water and know where to find fish, regardless of the time of year. He will share some of the in-depth knowledge and secrets he has gained from fishing competitively at the state and national level. He will also discuss fish movements, crappie trends,



crappie behavior and tendencies, and some of his favorite lures and tackle when pursuing slab-sized crappies in Indiana and elsewhere.

Tournament fisherman Bret Cunningham has proven his ability to find and catch fish, even when under pressure.

In addition to the speakers and seminars on Saturday, a slate of new officers will be presented to the membership and the volunteers will be elected. After the business meeting, we will all enjoy a buffet lunch prepared by the fairgrounds caterer. A big thank-you goes to the **National Shooting Sports Foundation** for sponsoring the lunch again this year at the HOW conference.



After lunch (and our third seminar), there will be an awards presentation and sponsored by the **Indiana TIP Board** (Turn in a Poacher/Polluter) for this year’s TIP Writing Contest. Lt. Col. Terry Hyndman will present the TIP awards. Several members of the TIP Advisory Board will be present at the conference so they can meet our members and personally hand out the awards to the contest winners. The TIP presentation will then be followed by the awards for the annual HOW Awards-in-Craft contests. **Toyota Motor Sales** is the AIC sponsor again this year and they have our sincere thanks.

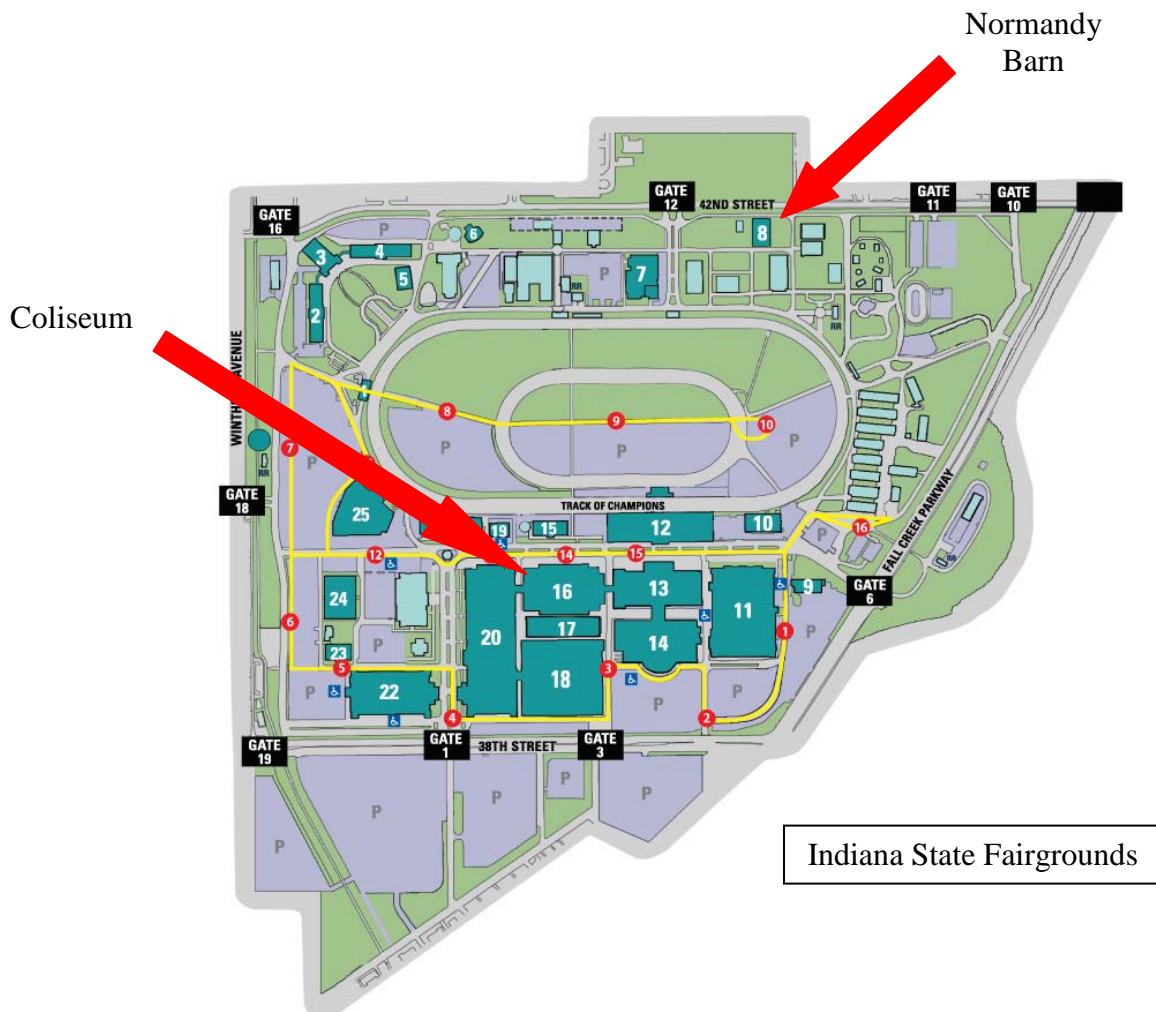
Of course, we are planning another excellent HOW Raffle this year, too! The raffle at the 2019 meeting at Fair Oaks Farms was a great one, and this year's raffle will be pretty good, too, just not quite as big. We have received a great variety of exceptional outdoors products for this year's raffle, including a stunning Henry .22 caliber American Eagle lever-action rifle, a fine-looking Ruger American Hunter rifle chambered in .308 WIN, an awesome Mossberg Patriot Predator 450 Bushmaster rifle, a beautiful Mission Archery compound bow, a Boat US membership, premium sunglasses, fishing rods and reels, fishing tackle, fishing lures, shooting and hunting gear, optics, rain gear, books, electronics, knives, ammunition, gun cleaning products, cast iron cookware, hiking boots, archery gear, camping gear and much more. A few more items are still coming in, too, so start saving your money for tickets now. You must be present to win, so don't miss it!

**Another Amazing
HOW Raffle!**

The Indiana State Fairgrounds – A Map For HOW Members

The 2020 HOW conference will be centered at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, which will be very convenient for all of the HOW members who are planning to attend the Boat, Sport & Travel Show this weekend. Our Friday evening press reception will take place at the Coliseum, which is shown on the map below.

The main HOW meeting on Saturday will take place at the Normandy Barn, which is located near the north end of the fairgrounds. See the same map for its location.



Hoosier Outdoor Writers Annual Conference Registration



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? _____

Conference Registration Fees:

HOW Members (and spouses): \$40.00 each (\$40 X number attending) = _____

Non-HOW Members: \$45.00 each (\$45 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

The Annual HOW Fun Shoot

The 2020 HOW Conference will begin (as usual) with the HOW Fun Shoot. It has become a tradition for the shooters in our membership to get together and break a few clay targets, have some fun and renew old friendships on the Friday before the Annual Meeting. We usually have all levels of shooters participating, from beginners to near-expert, so don't think you are not good enough to join us. All skill levels are welcome.

Since the 2020 HOW Conference will be held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, we will be returning to the **Indiana Gun Club** where we have held this event many times in the past. Last year we shot sporting clays at the Oakwood Gun Club near Wheatfield. This year we will either shoot sporting clays or skeet. The weather will likely be cold, so the shooters may opt for a couple rounds of skeet instead of a full round of sporting clays. After all, the skeet range is much closer to the clubhouse and we can warm up between rounds! Either way, it should be a lot of fun.

This year's shoot will take place on Friday, February 14 at 12:30pm (Indy time) and start shooting at 1:00pm. That should give us plenty of time to finish shooting and clean up before heading to the Coliseum for the evening press reception being sponsored by Renfro Productions.



HOW member Kenny Bayless reloads after a successful shot at the Oakwood Gun Club during last year's HOW Fun Shoot. Photo by Tom Berg.

We have negotiated with the gun club to allow us to shoot at the member price, so that will save us a chunk of money. A round of sporting clays will be \$35, which you can pay the club's cashier when we arrive. If we opt for skeet, the cost is just \$8 per round.

As always, we will be shooting rain or shine (or snow), but if it is super cold we may try to warm up between rounds by ducking into the clubhouse.

The gun club is located northeast of the park at 14926 E 113th St, Fortville, IN. To get to the gun club, take I465 to I69 and head northeast to E. 116th Street in Fishers. Turn right (east) and go about five miles until you reach Olio Road. Turn right and then make a quick left onto 113th Street. Follow this road for about a mile and the gun club will be on your left.

Drew YoungeDyke from the National Wildlife Federation will be shooting with us this year, and he will be supplying the lead-free ammunition to participating HOW members free of charge. So come on out and join the fun!

Once we are done shooting, we will head for the Coliseum for the evening press reception. Kevin Renfro from Renfro Productions will be there to greet all HOW members and welcome them to the 2020 Boat, Sport and Travel Show! See page 5 for more information.

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**



2020 HOW Conference

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



HOOSIER OUTDOOR WRITERS

Annual Meeting on February 15, 2020
Indiana State Fairgrounds
Normandy Barn, Indianapolis, IN

MEETING SCHEDULE

8:00-9:00am

Registration, continental breakfast.

9:00-9:05am

Opening remarks by HOW President Mike Schoonveld; briefing on the day's schedule.

9:05-9:15am

Amy Howell from the Indiana Office of Tourism Development will greet the HOW members and talk about tourism trends in Indiana during 2020. She will also distribute travel guides and press kits.

9:15-10:15am

Seminar #1: "Renewable Energy – Saving the Planet One Acre at a Time". Brandon Butler from Roeslein Alternative Energy will discuss what his company is doing to improve air, water and soil quality. He will talk about their vision for restoring native grasslands to 30-million acres – creating numerous ecological and wildlife benefits.

10:15-10:20am

Short break.

10:20-11:10am

Seminar #2: "Forestry in Indiana: "Why should Hoosiers be engaged?" Consulting Forester Perry Seitzinger will talk about the history of forests and forest management in Indiana and the challenges facing forest conservation efforts today. Topics include the forest industry, public policy and forest wildlife management.

11:10-11:30am

Business meeting, Slate of new officers and election of new officers for the coming year.

11:30-12:30pm

Buffet lunch and social time for members, sponsored by the NSSF.

12:30-1:30pm

Seminar #3: "Stopping Asian Carp". The National Wildlife Federation's Drew YoungeDyke will explain the damage these invasive species do to native fisheries and the threat they pose to the Great Lakes. Emily Wood from the Indiana Wildlife Federation will also update us on their recent conservation work in the state.

1:30-2:00pm

TIP Awards-In-Craft presentation.
HOW Awards-In-Craft presentation (Sponsored by Toyota Motor Sales).

2:00-2:30pm

Break. Raffle tickets go on sale!

2:30-3:15pm

Seminar #4: "Learn to Catch Crappies from Any Body of Water". Tournament crappie angler Bret Cunningham will share some of the knowledge he has gained from fishing competitively at the state and national level. He will also discuss fish movements, trends, tendencies and some of his favorite tackle.

3:15-3:30pm

Break. Last chance to buy raffle tickets!

3:30pm

Annual HOW Outdoor Writer's Raffle.

4:30pm

Meeting adjourns.

4:30pm

HOW Board Meeting.

HOW Raffle Donors - 2020

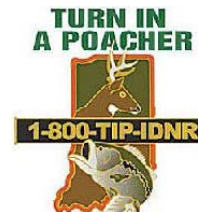
This list of raffle donors was compiled shortly before the conference. Additional raffle donations may come in after press time, and they will be acknowledged in the next issue.

Aquateko International
B'n'M Poles
Bass Pro Shops
Black River Tools
BoatUS
BOLT Locks
Brella Rainwear
Buck Knives
Bucket Grip
Celox Hemostatic Products
Cocoons Eyewear
Costa Sunglasses
Daisy Outdoor Products
Danner Boots
Dardevle by Eppinger
DJ Illinois River Valley Calls
Ducks Unlimited
Egret Baits
Falcon Guides
Finn Tackle Company
Fish Monkey Gloves
Flying Fisherman
G.Loomis
Glacier Glove
Grizzly Fishing
Hawke Sport Optics
Henry Repeating Arms
HHA Sports
Howard Leight
Jackall Lures
LaCrosse Footwear
LensPen

Lodge Manufacturing
Mathews Archery
Mossy Oak
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation
Norsemen Outdoors
Nosler, Inc.
Nothead Tackle
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.
Off Shore Tackle
Otis Technology
Outdoor Sportsman Group
PowerPro Lines
Princeton University Press
Pro-Cure Bait Scents
Quaker Boy Game Calls
Reef Runner Lures
RIO Products
Seaguar
Shimano American
Sierra Bullets
Snag Proof Lures
Sporting Classics
St. Croix Rods
Sturm, Ruger & Co.
Swab-Its
Tales End Tackle
Target Communications Outdoor Books
TTI-Blakemore
Vexilar, Inc.
W.R. Case



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 ← 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: Jan. 17, 2020

Harmonie SP to Host Free Falconry Event

Harmonie State Park will host a free falconry event led by members of the Indiana Falconers Association on Saturday, February 8, from 1 to 3 p.m.



Peregrine falcons can reach speeds of nearly 70 mph while pursuing prey in flight. However, their real superpower is the tremendous speed they reach during a hunting dive (or stoop), which has been clocked at speeds of 200 mph! Photo by Tom Berg.

The event will showcase an ancient form of survival still being practiced today.

The family-friendly program will be held rain, snow or shine, offering guests the chance to see a variety of raptors demonstrating their skills. Guests will see the birds flying to their handler when called and displaying their hunting skills with a lure. Guests will also have the opportunity to talk to the handlers and ask them questions.

The event will take place by the Nature Center in the campground, and the building will be open for restrooms and warmth. For more information or to ask questions, call Amelia Wildeman, interpretive naturalist, at 812-682-3658.

Beautiful and historic Harmonie State Park (on.IN.gov/harmoniesp) is located on the banks of the Wabash River in extreme southwestern Indiana. The address is 3451 Harmonie State Park Road, New Harmony, IN 47631.

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

Media contact: Amelia Wildeman, Interpretive Naturalist, 812-682-3658.



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 Dave Hoffman:

HOW Board member Dave Hoffman and his wife Judy are enjoying the warm weather on Florida's gulf coast near Punta Gorda. "It provides a great opportunity to learn more about the numerous shorebirds in the region and to understand their ecological niche," said Dave.

Having short legs and a short bill, the **Ruddy Turnstone** (*Arenaria interpres*) is appropriately named since they scuttle around the beach busily overturning rocks, pebbles, shells and clumps of seaweed in search of invertebrates, mollusks and crustaceans. "A member of the sandpiper family, they occupy much of the beach area, but can only feed in the shallows," observed Dave.



"It's amazing to me that these same little birds which spend their winters here, migrate through the Midwest on their journey to the High Arctic of North America and Greenland where they nest."

Another species in the sandpiper family, the **Willet** (*Tringa semipalmata*), is equipped with very long legs which allow it to wade relatively deep in the surf while searching for prey. "The Willet's bills are also much longer than their heads which allows them to probe deep into the sand or mudflats for food," said Hoffman.



"Although they are cousins to the Ruddy Turnstone, Willets clearly occupy a different niche, which reduces the competition for the same food." Willets that winter in southern Florida and South America migrate up the east coast, then nest in marshes, mud flats and beaches from northern New England to Newfoundland.

Willetts eat a wide variety of small invertebrates along the seashore. Small crabs and worms are favorites, but tiny clams are also a regular food item.

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

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

THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

Forrest Wood

Fishing Industry Pioneer and Legend

June 9, 1932 – January 25, 2020

Flippin, AR – Surrounded by his loving family, Forrest L. Wood, 87, of Flippin, Arkansas, passed peacefully into eternity on January 25, 2020. Forrest was born on June 9, 1932, in Flippin, Arkansas, to Ervin C. Wood and Beulah Mahan Wood. Forrest grew up working on the family farm.

Forrest graduated from Flippin High School in 1950 and married his high school classmate and sweetheart, Nina Kirkland, on April 21, 1951. They began their lives together as cattle ranchers in Flippin. Forrest also worked on the construction of Bull Shoals Dam, started a construction company of his own as well as a local guide and float trip business.

Forrest and Nina enjoyed nearly 69 wonderful years together with an extraordinary bond and love for one another. They were blessed with four daughters, 11 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren. Few things brought Forrest greater joy than a family gathering. He and Nina were also avid sports fans and could often be found at the grandkids' and great-grandkids' ballgames.

Forrest will be remembered as the Father of the Modern Bass Boat and as a devoted pioneer in the fishing industry. In 1968, he, along with his wife Nina, founded Ranger® Boats and most recently played a vital role in the foundation of Vexus® Boats. In addition to being a successful entrepreneur, he was also a formidable angler in his own right, qualifying for the world championship Bassmaster Classic® in 1972 and 1979. He was the namesake behind the FLW Tour tournament trail and has been inducted into numerous, renowned Halls of Fame including the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame in 2006 and the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame in 2011. Forrest was devoted to his home state and served for several years as an Arkansas Game & Fish Commissioner and is widely recognized for his conservation work. He was honored to have the Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center in Jonesboro named after him. He was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Sportfishing Association of America as well as the BASS Federation's Lifetime Achievement Award and the Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame Legacy Award.

Known for his signature cowboy hat, Forrest could instantly light up a room with his warm, genuine smile and charismatic personality. He was a man of true integrity who always made time for people. He was hardworking, gentle and humble. He had a heart of gold and a quick wit that everyone enjoyed. He was eager to learn from others and always listened with interest. He saw potential in every person he met and was always supportive and encouraging.

He is survived by his wife Nina, four daughters, 11 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, a sister-in-law Barbara Wood, and many nieces and nephews. Forrest was preceded in death by his parents and brother.

Funeral services were held at Flippin First Baptist Church on Wednesday, January 29, 2020. Memories of Forrest Wood and words of comfort for his family may be shared at the funeral home website: www.rollerfuneralhomes.com/yellville.



HOW Member News

Troy McCormick Hunts Trophy Bison in Missouri

HOW Board Chairman Troy McCormick is a hunter. He has hunted all of the United States (and the world), and big game is probably his favorite quarry. Well, it just doesn't get much bigger than the target from his most recent hunt!

“The ground was covered with two inches of freshly fallen snow,” recalled McCormick, “and as we looked out the back windows of the ranch dining hall, a herd of more than sixty buffalo emerged from the woods and flowed down along the Ozark mountain-side, through an open pasture and across a shallow creek crossing.”



Troy McCormick poses with his trophy bison, taken with a Henry .45-70 rifle.

“I was on a dream hunt this day, something that I never thought I would have the opportunity to do. I was hunting American Bison with a lever action .45-70 Govt. buffalo rifle from Henry Repeating Arms.”

“The American Bison was hunted to near extinction in the late nineteenth century, with the total population plummeting from 50 million to just 325 animals left in the world! With protection status given to the small herd in Yellowstone National Park (300 animals), and through breeding programs by private ranchers, the numbers have climbed back to more than 500,000. Of that number, only about 15,000 are in the wild, with the remaining animals on private ranches in Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Texas, and even Missouri.”

“We were hunting a 3-square mile ranch in Missouri called The High Adventure Ranch, right in the middle of the Missouri Ozarks. Rolling hills, open pastures, lakes, and small streams provide an amazing mix of woodlands and pasture for the animals.”

“After a combination of hunting by vehicle and several stalks on foot, and seeing herds of 20 to 100 animals, we finally located a group of five big bulls on a snow-covered ridgetop. Fellow HOW member Kenny Bayless was manning the video camera for me while I stalked through the trees to within about 70 yards. I sighted down the open buckhorn sights on the barrel and squeezed the trigger. A single 360-grain bullet hit that massive bull's shoulder and passed through his vitals.”

“Having stood at nearly six feet at the hump, this massive, 1,500+ pound bull was bigger than anything I had ever taken before. He provided nearly 500 pounds of meat! Even more amazing than that, my buffalo scored over the minimum inches for the SCI Record Book! This is one hunt I will never forget.”

Watch McCormick's American Bison hunt episode of *Footprints.TV* later this fall on the Hunt Channel (<http://huntchannel.tv>).

Kenny Bayless Loves Hunting and High Adventure

HOW Vice President Kenny Bayless often helps Troy McCormick film some of his adventures for Troy's Bootprints.TV show. In fact, he did the filming for Troy's bison hunt described on the previous page. But Kenny likes to hunt, too, and he was fortunate enough to get to hunt wild hogs he was in Missouri with Troy. Here is what he had to say about it:

“As I shook Troy McCormick's hand one day, I could tell from his broad smile that he had another adventure in mind for us. He asked ‘How about hunting Russian boar while I hunt for a bison at the High Adventure Ranch in Cook Station, Missouri?’ It took me about two seconds to say ‘Heck, yes!’”

“Troy is the producer of the award-winning outdoor show Bootprints.TV. The show offers various outdoor adventures from hunting and fishing to metal detecting.”

“After spending a warm cozy night in our log cabin overlooking the lake, Doretta, the cook, prepared us a fantastic breakfast of eggs and wild boar sausage, French toast, coffee and juice. For days to come, she prepared dishes such as bison meatloaf and red stag brisket in gravy. I asked her to marry me.”

“It was January 1, 2020, and the weather was on our side for once. Temperatures were in the low twenties and there was several inches of snow. Dave Carter was our hunting guide for the trip on the 3,000 acre ranch. We scouted on foot, as well as using his 4-wheel drive truck, to reach the most remote, steep terrain. We saw over 15 species of animals and most of them you only see in publications from around the world.”

“The day finally came for me to hunt a wild Russian boar. Troy set his phone up to count our steps and record the elevation changes. To our surprise, by the time the boar hunt was over we walked 4-1/2 miles and climbed 31 flights of stairs.”

“You know the saying, I'll take luck over skill any day? Well, it was my lucky day.”

“We glassed several groups of hogs with many laying in a bed of leaves or feeding. We picked out a nice tusker and waited for a shot, but he eventually moved away. We scoped other areas, looking for other groups of hogs. As Troy and I were standing on a long-sloped hillside, two boars came our way in the bottom of the draw and one was limping.”

“The area was thick with small trees and the hogs were walking through with caution. Troy told me the camera was rolling, so shoot. I have no excuses, I missed. That's when my luck kicked in, as a large group of hogs came running our way and got very close. I threw up the gun to only see black fill the scope. In a few minutes, another group of boars appeared with the one we had been watching at the front of the group. He detected us, unfortunately, and they turned and started back to where they came from. OK, my luck kicked in again and I took a couple shots, with my first shot striking the boar. Unfortunately he kept going and ran off!”

“As Dave walked up he said ‘You hit him and I've got blood.’ Lucky me, because the snow cover showed very small specks of blood like flashing red lights on a police car. Dave and Troy were like bird dogs on point, following the blood trail for over half a mile.”

“Dave said he was going to get a 4-wheeler to scout further ahead and he headed out. As Troy and I were still tracking, I saw movement up ahead and spotted three hogs feeding on a dead one. I automatically thought it was mine since hogs are meat eaters and very cannibalistic.”

“As we got within yards of the group, Troy drew his .40 caliber handgun because they were showing a lot of

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aggression while eating. After Dave found us with the 4-wheeler he said he had seen this dead hog earlier and it was not mine. Again, my lucky day. He said to follow on foot and he knew where the group of hogs was headed.”

“As we were stalking up a long hillside we heard a shot off in the distance and as we looked at each other with a questioning look on our faces, I said ‘I hope it’s my lucky day and Dave found my hog!’ As the 4-wheeler came speeding down a path, I knew the answer from the smile on Dave’s face.”

“He said ‘Jump on, we gotta go. Your hog is wounded and I hope he stays down!’”

“As we went speeding through the trees I had a hard time holding onto the .308 caliber Henry rifle I was shooting. Several hundred yards off, I could see a large black spot on the hillside that proved to be my wild boar. He was still trying to make an escape. As we jumped off the 4-wheeler, Troy set up the camera and recorded my final stalk on the Russian boar. As it started to stand, I gave it a final shot.”

“This boar was a trophy anybody would be glad to display on their wall. It had large teeth and a coal black coat, and it weighed-in at 250 pounds.”

“A couple of weeks later I got a note from Troy that the riflescope turret was loose and the rifle was shooting six inches low. It must have come loose in the woods while hunting hogs because I shot it at the range the day before our hunt and it was dead on. That made me feel better for missing the first shot.”



“With Dave Carter as my guide and with Troy McCormick backing me up, it was definitely my lucky day!”

Kenny Bayless pauses with the trophy Russian wild boar that he harvested while hunting in the Ozark Mountains of Missouri.

Wild boars like this one are not only very cannibalistic, they can also be very dangerous to humans. Those large tusks sticking out on either side of their mouths are razor sharp, and the hogs know how to use them in a fight to the death!

Drift Boat Adventures and Advice

by HOW President Mike Schoonveld

“Can we bring our own gear,” I asked? I was inquiring about taking a morning fishing trip on what is called a head boat or party boat, in most places. In Ft. Lauderdale, at Fisherman’s Headquarters, they are called drift boats.

Regardless of the name, they are operated similarly, anywhere I’ve been, from Florida to California. For a modest fee, modest being relative to what the cost of going out on a boat by one’s self or with just a small group would cost, eager “deep sea” anglers plunk down their money and venture forth with a dozen (perhaps two or three dozen, depending on the size of the boat) fellow fish seekers to crank strange and mysterious fish out of the ocean.

I asked about bringing my own tackle mostly because the rods and reels on the boats are normally oversized, and well-used. Occasionally, (as in once a month or perhaps once a year) some lucky party-boater will hook into a truly unlucky big fish – perhaps a sailfish or swordfish in Ft. Lauderdale; perhaps some other denizen of the deep elsewhere – and it takes big, sturdy tackle to subdue the beast. For every one of those, though, there are probably ten thousand small fish boated.



Still, the boat owners pass out rods and reels worthy of catching a wicked tuna. If they didn’t, they’d never get that



Mike Schoonveld shows off the very strange-looking remora fish that he caught on the drift boat.

photo of the once-a-year sailfish to post on their Facebook page. Also, many of the customers show up having seen the marketing photos, and expect to be handed a giant-sized rod and reel. Anticipation is one of the joys of fishing and they latch onto those broomstick-like rods clamped to huge reels filled with 40, 60 or 80 pound line, believing they are going to catch that fish of a lifetime. I hope they do!

I’ve caught those fish of a lifetimes already, and been on head boats often enough to realize a better goal is to catch enough fish for dinner. Doing that is going to be much more possible by scaling down and using lighter gear more suited to what’s likely to be caught rather than what is possible to catch. My partner and I showed up with medium-heavy spinning rods loaded with 20 pound line, some fluorocarbon leader material and appropriately sized hooks.

Other than being downsized, we employed the simple hook, line and sinker terminal tackle, we fished using the same bait and technique as the other customers but with far different results. The reefs down below were covered

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with hungry fish. Getting bites was no issue. Even so, hooking the fish was tough for most anglers on the boat, and hooking a keeper was even tougher.

Yellowtail snapper were the most abundant, but they need to be 12 inches long to legally keep. A few were legal, but most weren't. White grunts were our second most-hooked species. They are called grunts due to the grunting sound they make when being unhooked. Grunts are very good to eat. There is no size limit, most were 10 inches long or so, and they were sort of bluegill-shaped. Who wouldn't welcome a 10-inch bluegill to a fish fry?



Schoonveld's fishing partner Doug Wheelock cautiously grabs the line after reeling up a very slippery (and toothy) moray eel. Hmmm. This seems like a good time to call the first mate and ask him to unhook that catch for you! Photo by Mike Schoonveld.

Although I didn't take notes to keep track of all the other types of reef fish we pulled from the depths, I do remember a few. We caught several strawberry groupers, but the season was closed. We also pulled in several clown wrasse fish, a protected species. We got a few blue runners which are not particularly good to eat. These were all released. I caught one exceptionally long skinny fish called a sand eel. I kept it and it was very tasty at dinner that night.

The most unusual fish for me was a remora, the fish often seen hitchhiking rides on sharks and other predator fish. My fishing partner angled up a cool moray eel.

The number of fish caught on any fishing trip isn't the only way to measure success, though. That's a good thing since most of our fellow anglers that morning caught zero keeper fish, and many caught nothing at all. One young fisherman caught a sand shark about three feet long. It had an extra-long tail fin which made it look like a miniature thresher shark. The fish of a lifetime, for him.

For the rest, they had paid fifty bucks each for the chance to catch that fish of a lifetime, and for an on-the-water view of million dollar yachts docked near multi-million dollar homes.

We shared the ocean with ships from around the world, observed native birds like pelicans and saw non-native iguanas sunning themselves on piers and navigational buoys. We ended up with enough fish for dinner, but that was only a side benefit. I don't think any of us walked away completely disappointed.

Let Roadsides Grow Wild for Imperiled Species

by HOW member Jay Butler

I just finished reading Mike Todd's Oct. 29 letter to the editor in the Ft. Wayne Journal Gazette, "Weeds are out of control along state's roadways," with the writer lamenting that the Indiana Department of Transportation "is letting our roadways go back to natural habitat," implying that Indiana road rights-of-way are being left in a shameful condition.

I felt that a second opinion was in order. While I do understand there are those who would have the grass along Indiana highways looking as pristine as a well-tended lawn, there is excellent reason to let them go natural. There is an ever-decreasing area for small-game animals, pollinators and birds to live because of our continuing commercialization of farmland.

The writer complains that "INDOT mows just the edge," which is likely done just for safety concerns and not for the sake of saving operator time or fuel for mowing.

But let's get to something that I am more familiar with. Who has not noticed that compared with the days of our youth, we now see far fewer fireflies winking on and off as they drift across the darkened sky on warm summer evenings? What we may not have noticed is that we also have far fewer bee pollinators, butterflies and songbirds than we had as recently as 10 years ago. And we may not have noticed less small game, including rabbits, pheasants and others.

The fact is that our honeybees are under serious threat, as are our Indiana songbirds. Both are essential to the future, one to feed our bellies and the other to feed our souls. The main threats facing pollinators are habitat loss, as native vegetation is replaced by roadways, manicured lawns, crops, and non-native gardens. Our pollinators are losing the food and habitat necessary for their survival. Without flower pollen – no bees. Without bees – no honey, but more importantly, fewer ways to pollinate our fruits and vegetables.

A similar chain-of-life threat holds true with enumerable other insects, birds and wildlife here in Indiana. We have less land suitable for pheasants, grouse and other game birds, as well as rabbits, and they are all becoming dependent on the natural areas along our roadways. With fewer hunters year after year, we are losing the revenue stream from hunting licenses that is the primary source of wildlife funding efforts.



HOW member Jay Butler.

All these God-given gifts of nature benefit by our allowing our highway rights-of-way to go natural rather than mowing them to a lawn-like consistency.

As an alternative to mowing, I'd recommend more seeding with wildflowers native to Indiana, including milkweed for the monarch butterfly, an insect also under stress. Then, I'd ask the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to post signage, educating our populace about the planned wildlife sanctuaries being propagated along the Indiana roadways.

Native grass and wildflowers not only add beauty, but also protect those not able to protect themselves. And planned properly, less – not more – weed spraying is needed, as well as less mowing. If mowing is considered necessary, it should not be done in the months when game birds are nesting.

I belong to the Izaak Walton League of America, a conservationist organization, committed to protection of soil, water, air and wildlife. One way to achieve this protection is to educate our neighbors on the importance of retaining natural areas

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for the propagation and protection of nature's gifts that we often take for granted.

Too often we don't even realize these "gifts" are under ever-increasing threat – a threat we can alleviate through education, planning and protecting, via simple things like enhancing, rather than decimating, the areas for nurturing them along our Indiana roadways.

So thank you, INDOT, for your wisdom, and may I encourage you to take the next step in planting more wildflower patches in our rights-of-way, supplemented by plants such as milkweed, the flowering weed needed by the monarch butterfly in order to complete their life cycle.

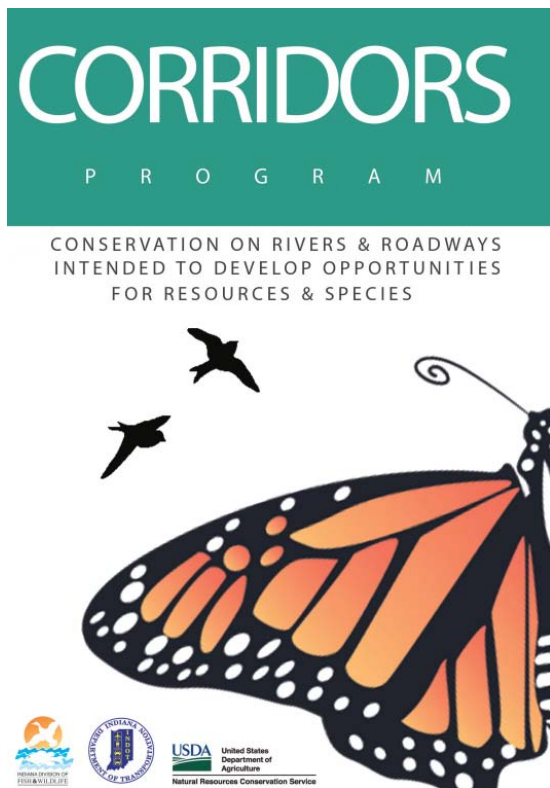
And then, INDOT, proudly tell of your efforts by adding signage to educate those like the earlier editorial writer, who unwittingly is a proponent in the demise of nature's plant, insect and wildlife beauty rapidly disappearing in Indiana.

I am sure Mr. Todd enjoys the beauty of the monarch butterfly, the taste of honey and the song of the whippoorwill and very likely simply does not realize the importance of our Indiana "natural" road rights-of-way to their continued existence.

The threat is very real, and sometimes the easiest way is the best way to ensure the future.

Jay Butler is vice president of the Fort Wayne chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America.

Editor's note: Jay Butler's letter discusses many of the ideas behind the Indiana DNR's Corridors Program. To learn more about this program, please visit www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/9405.htm.



MORE ABOUT CORRIDORS



The Corridors program is focused on grassland and pollinator habitats.

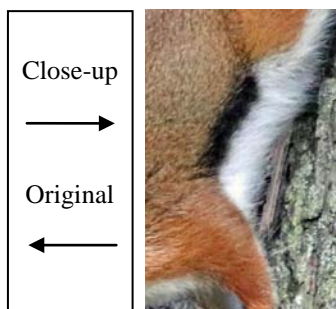
Benefits

- * Beautifies roadways
- * Establishes native wildflowers
- * Provides clean water and healthy soils
- * Provides important habitat for wildlife to thrive
- * Reduces taxpayer dollars for mowing and maintenance of highways
- * Provides habitat for pollinators responsible for 1/3 of all food consumed worldwide
- * Allows private landowners to get technical and financial assistance for wildlife habitat



Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Vexilar

The American Red Squirrel Loves Coniferous Trees



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was a little tougher than last time, but it was correctly identified by a total of 8 HOW members. Mike Schoonveld, Bill Keaton, Jameson Olson, Troy McCormick, Tom Cranfill, John Maxwell, Phil Seng, and Rich Creason all identified it. When we drew a name at random for the rod and reel combo from **B’n’M Poles**, Bill Keaton was the winner. Congrats, Bill! We’ll get the prize to you.

As you can see in the photo to the left, the mystery creature for this issue was an American red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*). Also called pine squirrels or piney squirrels, these small tree squirrels are often found in coniferous forests. However, they also inhabit deciduous forests and they can be seen in urban neighborhoods, too. They are much smaller than their gray squirrel and fox squirrel cousins, but they have similar habits. In the summer their fur is a beautiful reddish color above with a bright white belly, separated by a dark black stripe. In the late fall and winter, their coat becomes more grayish in color and the black stripe disappears.

As you might expect, pine squirrels love to eat pine nuts that they pry from pine cones. The ground beneath a pine tree inhabited by an industrious pine squirrel can be absolutely littered with the petals of pine cones, sometimes more than an inch deep! These hungry squirrels also eat other seeds and nuts, and they eat a wide variety of fruit if it is available. They often eat insects when they are plentiful, and they sometimes eat meat such as mice and baby birds. They can be playful and are fun to watch!

For this issue, our friends at **Vexilar** have donated a very nice prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be a Vexilar SonarPhone with transducer pod. See below for more info on the prize and this issue’s question.



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

Tom Berg has posed another Nature Photo mystery. The photo shown at right is part of a close-up of a creature that lives right here in Indiana. It is found throughout the state, and you may even see it in your back yard. Does it look familiar?

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 mouse, for example, go ahead and guess “field mouse” (of course, it’s not a mouse). But if you think you know the answer, send an email to thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you’re right, you will be eligible for this issue’s prize.



As mentioned, **Vexilar** has donated a SonarPhone with transducer pod (worth more than \$100) for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. The SonarPhone turns your smartphone or tablet into a fully functional touchscreen sonar system rivaling the performance of sonar systems costing hundreds more (see www.vexilar.com). If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw a winner at random from the correct entries. 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.

Henry Repeating Arms Donates Over 120 Guns to Raise Money for Two Children Undergoing Cancer Treatments

Over \$70,000 Will Benefit Families of 4-Year-Old Boy from Texas and 3-Year-Old Girl from Ohio.

Bayonne, NJ – January 3, 2020: Henry Repeating Arms President and Owner, Anthony Imperato, first learned of 3-year-old Sadie Kreinbrink a few months after she was diagnosed with Embryonal Rhabdomyosarcoma, a malignant childhood tumor requiring 66 weeks of chemotherapy treatment. When Sadie’s mother reached out to Henry Repeating Arms, Imperato immediately offered assistance through Henry’s Guns For Great Causes program, a charitable arm of the American firearms manufacturer focused on raising money for families of sick children and other worthy causes through the sale of customized limited edition rifles.

A few months later, a heart-wrenching photo of 4-year-old Beckett Burge of Princeton, TX went viral. The photo, taken by Beckett’s mother, shows Beckett hunched over a toilet sick from his chemotherapy and being comforted by his sister. As it pulled at heartstrings across the country it also caught the attention of Imperato. Henry Repeating Arms reached out to the mother, Kaitlin Burge, and offered to create and donate a series of rifles that would be sold to raise money for Beckett’s treatment.

Under the *Guns for Great Causes* program, Henry Repeating Arms has donated a series of 66 “Sweet Sadie” edition rifles and 60 “Beat It Like Beckett” edition rifles, both of which were designed and embellished by Baron Engraving of Trumbull, CT who donated their services. All proceeds from the sales of these *Guns for Great Causes* rifles will be presented to the Kreinbrink family and the Burge family, respectively, to help cover the expenses associated with medical treatment and recovery.

Imperato explains, “More often than not, the gun industry is painted in a negative light by the press and media. I started *Guns For Great Causes* to change that narrative and create something positive.” He continues, “These two kids have a smile that stole my heart and I want to sincerely thank everyone who purchases one of these rifles in advance.”

Sadie Kreinbrink of Ostrander, Ohio was born August 10, 2016 and was diagnosed in February of 2019. Kaleigh Kreinbrink, Sadie’s mother says, “Sadie has been so brave through this process. On her bad days, her brother is her biggest supporter.” She continues, “He always knows how to make her feel better. Sadie is so full of life and love even through this tough journey. We can’t thank Henry Repeating Arms enough for what they’re doing for us.” Sadie enjoys visiting the zoo, driving her pink Jeep, and collecting Hatchimal™ toy figurines.

The .22-caliber “Sweet Sadie” edition rifle is built on Henry’s new [Golden Boy Silver Youth](#) platform with a nickel-plated receiver cover, buttplate, and barrel band. The genuine American walnut buttstock is engraved with a flowing bow and the words, “Sweet Sadie.” The engravings are further embellished with a hand-painted pink fill. The limited edition of 66 rifles represents each week that Sadie must undergo chemotherapy and each of the rifles is marked with a unique serial number ranging from “SADIE001” to “SADIE066.” To learn more about the “Sweet Sadie” edition rifles from Henry Repeating Arms or make a purchase visit: www.henryusa.com/sweetsadie.



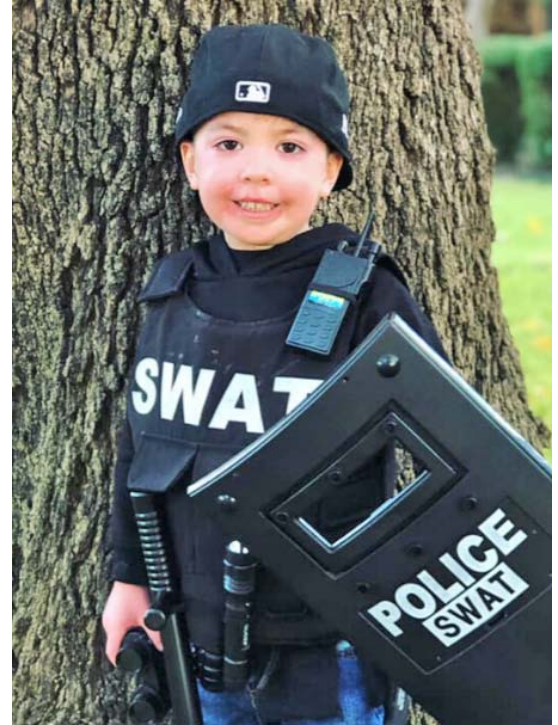
Beckett Burge of Princeton, Texas was diagnosed with leukemia more than a year ago and has been undergoing treatment ever since. Beckett is currently receiving chemo on a nightly basis and returns to his clinic monthly for chemo through his port. He's on steroids 5 days a month and receives a double dose of chemo once a week. Kaitlin Burge, Beckett's mother wrote in a recent Facebook post, "When people look at him, they're shocked to hear he has cancer. He's energetic, he has hair, he's thriving right? The answer is, no." She continues, "That tiny, 3-foot, 30-pound body is fighting daily." Beckett loves baseball, country music, riding his bicycle, swimming, and pretending that he's a policeman. Beckett is undergoing a trying regiment of steroids and chemotherapy until August 2021 for his acute lymphoblastic leukemia diagnosis, for a total of more than 3 years of treatment.

The "Beat It Like Beckett" edition rifles are a unique configuration with a large loop lever, a brushed metal receiver cover, and a 17" blued steel octagon barrel. The buttstock engraving portrays a hand painted gold ribbon, the symbol for the fight against childhood cancer and the words "Beat It Like Beckett." Unique serial numbers are assigned to each rifle from "BECKETT01" to "BECKETT60". To learn more about the "Beat It Like Beckett" edition rifles from Henry Repeating Arms or make a purchase visit www.henryusa.com/beckett.

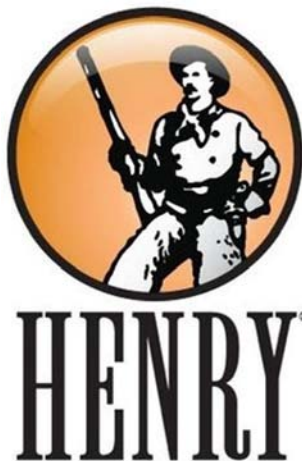
Henry firearms can only be purchased through a licensed firearms dealer. For more information about Henry Repeating Arms and its products visit henryusa.com or call 866-200-2354.

About Henry Repeating Arms:

Henry Repeating Arms is one of the leading rifle and shotgun manufacturers in the United States and a world leader in the lever action category. The company motto is "Made in America, or not made at all" and its firearms come with a lifetime guarantee backed by award-winning customer service. The company is also known for its charitable endeavors under its Guns For Great Causes program, which focuses on sick children, both individual cases and children's hospitals, veteran and wounded veteran organizations, Second Amendment and wildlife conservation organizations. The company currently employs 535 people and has 250,000 square-foot of manufacturing space in its Rice Lake, Wisconsin and Bayonne, New Jersey facilities. The company is named in honor of Benjamin Tyler Henry who invented and patented the Henry rifle in 1860 – the first repeating rifle, the lever action rifle, which is America's unique contribution to international firearms design and is one of the most legendary, respected and sought after rifles in the history of firearms. Visit Henry Repeating Arms online at www.HenryUSA.com, on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/HenryRepeating, and on Instagram [@Henry_Rifles](https://www.instagram.com/Henry_Rifles).



Media Contact: Dan Clayton-Luce, Henry Repeating Arms, email: dan@henryusa.com, cell: 919-818-2052.



HOW Supporting Member News

Serious Fishermen Prefer StowMaster® Premium Landing Nets for Tough Conditions

Lake Mills, IA: Diehard fishermen know that a quality landing net is one of the most important tools you can carry when on a fishing trip. Whether it is a remote fishing trip in northern Canada or a simple weekend outing at the lake, a reliable landing net can be the difference between the fish of a lifetime and the one that got away.

The StowMaster line of premium landing nets from Norsemen Outdoors represents the world's first landing net specially engineered and patented to be fish-friendly, ultra-strong, tangle-free and easily stowable. Guaranteed.



Extend It, Fold It, Stow It.

Stowmaster landing nets are fully collapsible for easy storage. And their minimal weight and engineered strength make them the perfect choice whether you're salmon fishing in Alaska, charter fishing for trophies or bass fishing on your local pond. Just get that fish to the boat; we'll take care of the rest.

Compact and Convenient.

Traditional landing nets are long and wide and clumsy – tough to stow in any boat or vehicle. But Tournament Series Precision Landing Nets™ can be telescoped and folded into a convenient, stowable size. Did you say versatility? Hoop sizes range from a handy 14" X 18" to a greedy 36" x 38" – among the largest you can find. The smallest net extends to 38" and the largest to 10 feet! And our lifetime repair or replace warranty makes the Tournament Series Precision Landing Nets™ one of the safest buys and best values in fishing.

Provide the Ultimate Protection for your Catch!

StowMaster's new Guardian™ netting utilizes a proprietary manufacturing process to treat the net mesh with a special elastomeric rubberized coating. The result is a knotless fish friendly mesh that provides the superior protection and anti-fouling/hooks performance of a full rubber net at a mere fraction of the weight. Extra strong multi-braid nylon inner core provides exceptional strength and durability versus traditional netting. Lightweight design sweeps effortlessly through the water. Available in 3/8" micro mesh and 3/4" macro mesh sizes.

Built Tough. But with a Gentle Side.

When you're muskie fishing in the north woods or saltwater fishing in Alaska, you can't take a chance on a weak net. StowMaster landing nets aren't just constructed, they're engineered. Engineered so uniquely, we even hold a patent (patent #5,533,293).

Hoop frames and net handles are made from an aircraft-quality aluminum alloy that's both light and strong. Net handles are designed not to slip or twist when you're extending them – meaning the locking pin finds its home every time. Every part is crafted with incredible precision – down to the 1/10,000th of an inch. In fact, all Tournament Series Precision Landing Nets™ have a lifetime guarantee against breakage. Finally, our specially designed rubber-dipped nylon nets are gentler on the fish's protective coating – making them perfect for catch and release.

Media Contact: Alan Johnson, Norsemen Outdoors, email: alan@norsemenoutdoors.com, phone: 641-592-6160. For additional information, visit their website at www.norsemenoutdoors.com.



HOW's Supporting Member Websites

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

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

Hoosier Outdoor Writers

Application For New Membership

(Check Desired Classification below)

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

Personal Information:

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

Professional Information:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Signature: _____

Sponsor: _____

Who We Are

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

What We Do

These are the purposes of HOW:

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

What We Stand For

These are what we strive to accomplish:

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

Membership Requirements

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

1. Active

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



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

2. Associate

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

3. Supporting

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

4. Active Student

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

5. Associate Student

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

Calendar of Events

NWTF Convention & Sport Show: February 12-16, 2020
(www.nwtf.org)
Nashville, TN

HOW 2020 Annual Conference: February 14-15, 2020
(www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org)
Indiana Fairgrounds
Indianapolis, IN

Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show: February 14-23, 2020
(www.IndySportShow.com)
Indianapolis, IN

Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo: February 20-23, 2020
(www.IndySportShow.com)
Indianapolis, IN

NRA 2020 Annual Meetings: April 17-19, 2020
(www.nra.org)
Nashville, TN

POMA 2020 Annual Conference: June 16-18, 2020
(www.professionalooutdoormedia.org)
Franklin, TN

OWAA 2020 Annual Conference: June 27-29, 2020
(www.OWAA.org)
Jay Peak Resort, VT

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