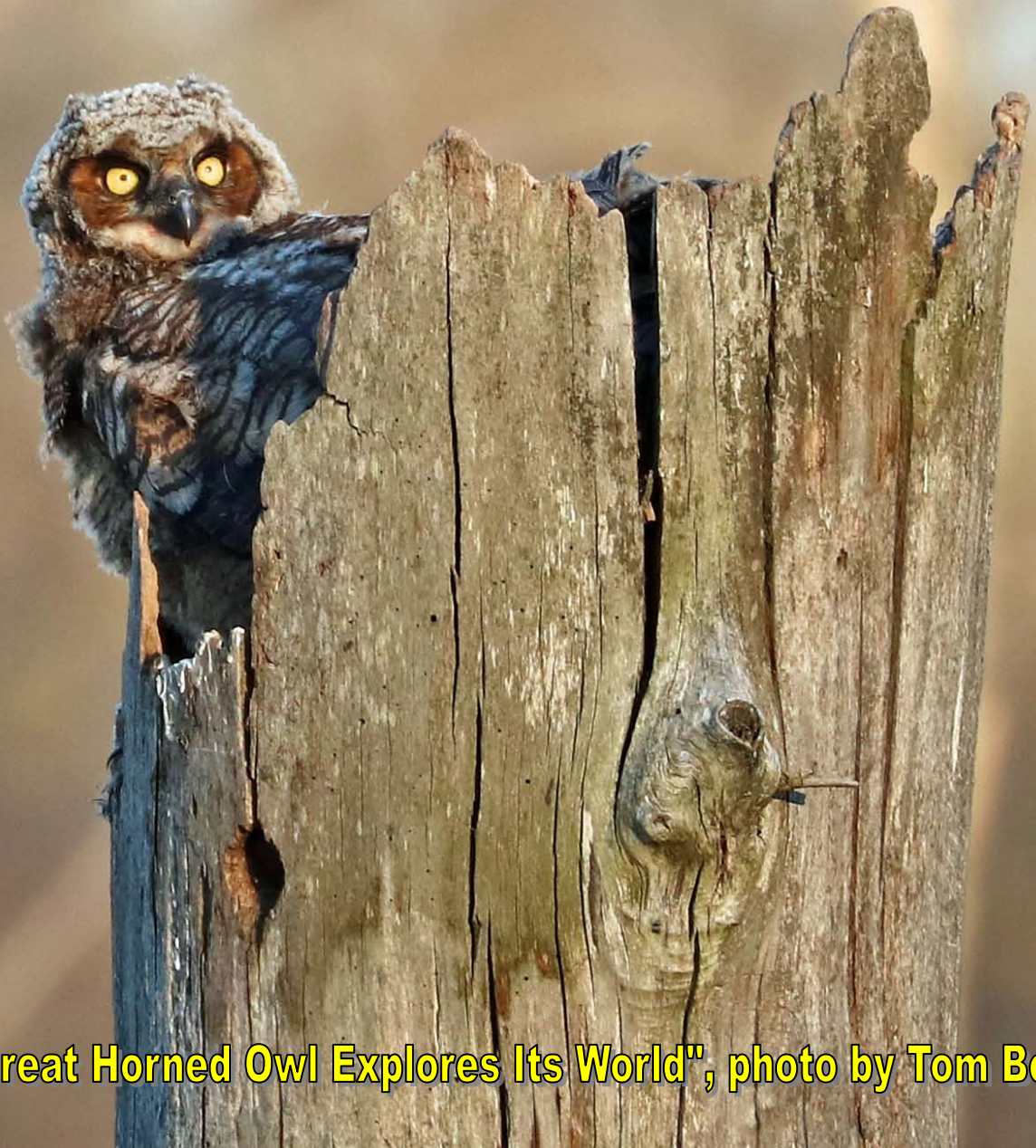


# The Blade

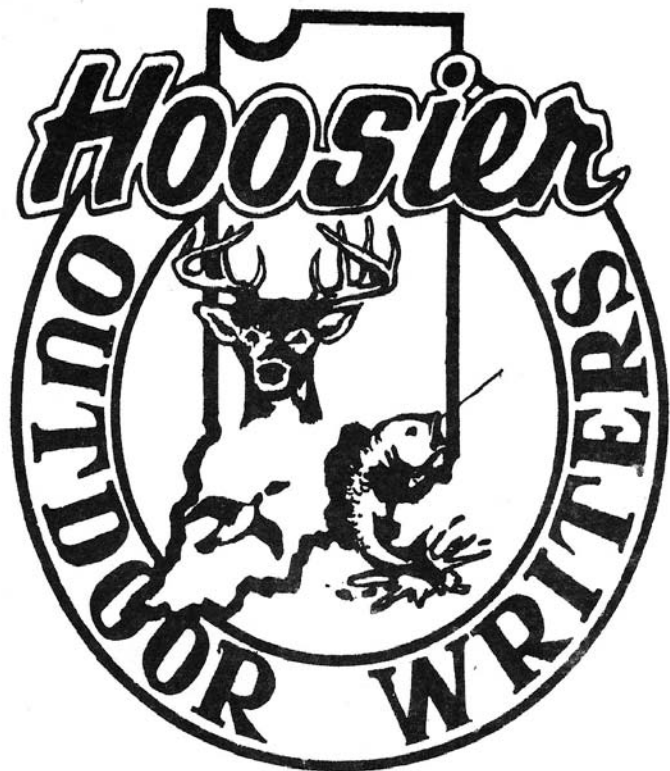
2020 Post-Conference Issue

March - April 2020

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Young Great Horned Owl Explores Its World", 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

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

### President

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

### Vice President

Phil Seng  
317 E. Jefferson Blvd.  
Mishawaka, IN 46545  
[phil@djcase.com](mailto:phil@djcase.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)

### Board Members

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Region 2 – Rick Bramwell  
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Region 3 – Mike Lunsford  
2021  
Region 4 – Jack Spaulding  
2022

### At Large:

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Marilyn Culler – 2022  
John Maxwell – 2022  
Troy McCormick – 2022

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 juvenile great horned owl stands up in its nest to get a better look at the outside world in April, 2020. This owlet had two littermates – one had already fledged and left the nest, and the other was hiding out of sight just below the lip of this old hollow tree. Photo by Tom Berg.



# President's Message

by Kenny Bayless

Let me get started by introducing myself. I'm Kenny Bayless, aka *The Redneck Quaker* from Terre Haute, IN. First and foremost, I am an outdoorsman. I love hunting, but fishing ain't bad, either! I'm not bragging by any means when I say I've traveled the world and harvested many different species. From Cape buffalo in Africa and grizzly bears in Russia, to fishing for halibut in Alaska. I'm currently a cameraman for Bootprints.TV, as well.

Jerrilynn, my wife of 20 years, has nerves of steel when it comes to dealing with me. We both love Africa, but she loves it for viewing wild game. She's been a hair stylist for 34 years and has her own salon. My son, Seth, is attending Indiana State University in computer science, is an Air National Guardsman and is delving into having a podcast.



I'm honored to represent the great outdoor-loving folks who are members of HOW. Our battle to preserve the outdoors is becoming a major battle.

The recent HOW board meeting at the conference in Indianapolis went very smooth with a lot of good ideas for the future of HOW. One of the main topics was where we should hold the HOW conference next year. It was suggested we hold it during the Indy Boat Show again, but when the thought of Turkey Run State Park in Parke County was mentioned, everyone perked up like a starved blind dog that walked into a butcher shop! OK, at least I did!

But let's get serious. Turkey Run SP was chosen as Indiana's best State Park in 2018. The next year, it grabbed the two top spots in voting for Indiana's best hiking trails. Trail #3 came in first. It's commonly known as the ladder trail that's about two miles long and has 351 feet of elevation change. Overall, Turkey Run has 11 trails. The park is about 35 miles from Terre Haute and Sugar Creek divides the park in half. A suspension bridge and Narrows Covered Bridge connects both sides. The creek offers excellent fishing as well as canoeing and kayaking.

Turkey Run Inn was added in 1919, is open year round and is second to none for its accommodations. It is also home to the Narrow's Restaurant. Other accommodations include cabins and a campground with 213 electric sites. Another popular activity at the park is its planetarium. It can accommodate about 30 people and is open from April through October with daily shows at 2 pm. The park takes same day reservations in person at the nature center.

Another outdoor sport offered in the area is a top notch sporting clays range located about 30 miles south of Turkey Run and about 5 miles north of Terre Haute on highway 63. I am planning to help organize the 2021 Friday Fun Shoot at this facility and am looking forward to it.

As Jeremiah Johnson would say, "Keep Your Gunpowder Dry, Pilgrim!"

# The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents and Memorial Section

HOW extends a warm welcome  
to our newest members:

Gene Hopkins (Associate)  
Columbus, IN  
Sponsor: Tom Berg

Wyatt Manek (Associate Student)  
DePauw, IN  
Sponsor: Jarrett Manek

Bryan McFadden (Associate)  
Valparaiso, IN  
Sponsor: Tom Berg

Scott Cummings (Active)  
Fort Wayne, IN  
Sponsor: Tom Berg

## Memorial to HOW Members Those Who Have Gone Before Us:

Jack Alkire – HOW President 1979  
Bill Beeman – Executive Director  
Don Bickel  
Ed Blann  
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
Mike Schoonveld	2019



# Annual HOW Fun Shoot Goes Lead-Free!

by Tom Berg



The 2020 HOW Fun Shoot provided the participants with strong feelings of deja-vu this year, allowing us to remember back to the days when this event (and the HOW conference) was held in the wintry month of February. At least we can say it was a nice, sunny day for this year's HOW Fun Shoot. But with snow on the ground and early afternoon temperatures hovering around 13-14 degrees, it was just a bit chilly!

Nevertheless, several stalwart HOW members met at the **Indiana Gun Club** on the northeast side of Indianapolis for this annual affair. Drew Youngedyke from the **National Wildlife Federation** joined us this year, and he was kind enough to bring plenty of Winchester Xpert High Velocity steel shotshells for each HOW member to use. Youngedyke is a strong proponent of the "lead-free movement", so choosing lead-free ammunition was a no-brainer for him. It should be an easy choice for all of us!

There wasn't a cloud in the bright blue sky as the HOW shooters assembled at the gun club's skeet range. We decided to shoot skeet this year since it was cold and the skeet range was nice and close to the clubhouse! There would be less snow to tromp through, too!

We randomly chose a shooting order, and I was the lucky one that got to go first. Skeet is not my best shooting sport, but I usually like Station #1 where the clay targets are coming straight towards me and going straight away from me. I shot 4-out-of-4 at that station, but my score quickly went downhill from there! Like many of our shooters, the last time I used my shotgun was a year ago, at last year's HOW Fun Shoot! Phil Seng was up next, followed by Mike Schoonveld, Drew Youngedyke, Bill Keaton and Brent Wheat.



**Above (L to R):** HOW shooters Brent Wheat, Bill Keaton and Mike Schoonveld get a little social time in between shots at the skeet range. All Fun Shoot photos were taken by Tom Berg.

Each shooter had stations that either treated them very well or very poorly. That is, except for Mike Schoonveld. Mike is a veteran shooter and has been one of HOW's best marksmen for many years. He did well at just about every station. Bill Keaton also did well, and he did not trail Mike by much throughout the entire course of this first round of skeet.

Luckily the wind was relatively calm as we advanced through the shooting stations, so none of us became hypothermic! There was a lot of joking and good-natured camaraderie to keep everyone's

(HOW Fun Shoot continued on next page)



spirits up. We were having fun!

At the end of the first round (25 shots), Mike Schoonveld held the lead with a score of 20/25. Bill Keaton was in second place with 16, and Phil Seng and myself were tied for third place with 13 each. It was time to move on to the second round!

Just about every shooter improved their score in the second round. Perhaps the first round was just a “warm-up” session. Schoonveld proved that he was the best shooter again this day, and he ended the second round with a respectable score of 21. That’s not bad, especially considering the fact that the temperature was 13 degrees and we were all wearing multiple layers of coats, hats, gloves, etc.

I did quite a bit better on this second round, scoring 18 broken targets out of 25 and garnering second place. Phil Seng was right behind me with 17, and Bill Keaton scored 15. Brent wheat dropped out of the rotation halfway through the second round so he could concentrate on recording a live review of an over/under shotgun for GUNS Magazine. After all, Brent is the editor-in-chief for GUNS and he always seems to be working!



Drew Youngedyke gets a good bead on an incoming clay target, just before shattering it!

Here are the final results for the day: When we added the scores for the two rounds of skeet, Mike Schoonveld came out of top with a first place finish and a score of 41/50. Bill Keaton and Tom Berg tied for second place with scores of 31/50 each, just edging-out Phil Seng. Phil took third place with a score of 30/50. Again, these were not bad scores considering the tough shooting conditions today.

After the second round, half of the shooters called it a day and headed for the Indiana State Fairgrounds so they could check out the Boat, Sport & Travel Show a bit early. Seng, Berg and Youngedyke decided to stick around and shoot one more round, just for fun. A bitterly cold wind kicked up almost as soon as they started this last round, so by the end they were all pretty cold! All except for Phil Seng – he had warmed up and shot his best round yet!



Many thanks go to Drew Youngedyke and the **National Wildlife Federation** and **Winchester** for supplying the ammunition for this year’s Fun Shoot. Thank you!

Mike Schoonveld (left) and Bill Keaton (right) at the skeet range.

# 2020 HOW Conference

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



# **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**





# HOW Raffle Donors - 2020

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**Black River Tools**  
**BoatUS**  
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**Buck Knives**  
**Bucket Grip**  
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**Cocoons Eyewear**  
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**Creason Wooden Pens**  
**Daisy Outdoor Products**  
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**Dardevle by Eppinger**  
**DJ Illinois River Valley Calls**  
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**G.Loomis**  
**Glacier Glove**  
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**HHA Sports**  
**Howard Leight**  
**Jackall Lures**  
**LaCrosse Footwear**

**LensPen**  
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**Snag Proof Lures**  
**Sporting Classics**  
**St. Croix Rods**  
**Sturm, Ruger & Co.**  
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## 2020 HOW Conference Returns to Indianapolis and the Indiana State Fairgrounds!



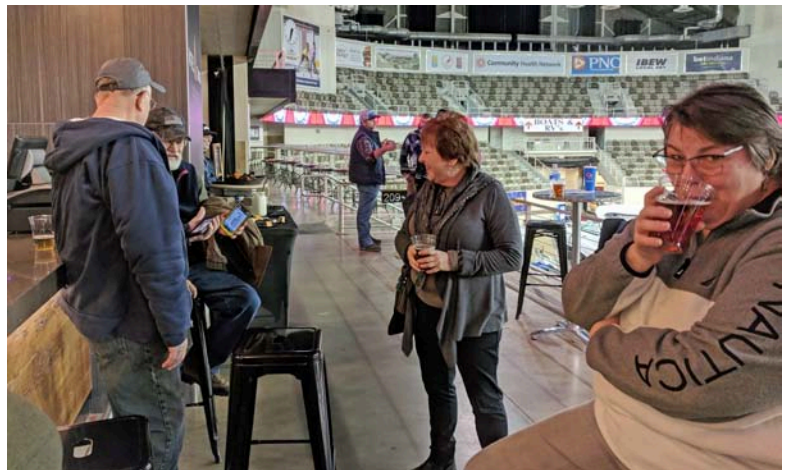
The 51st meeting of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers took place on the weekend of February 14-15, 2020 (Friday and Saturday) at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in downtown Indianapolis. It has been many years since we had a conference at the fairgrounds in conjunction with the Boat, Sport & Travel Show, and it was good to be back! The weather was chilly, but it did not snow on us, so that was a definite plus. In fact, the skies were sunny on Friday, and that pointed to a great start to the weekend.

The first activity of the conference was the annual HOW Fun Shoot on Friday, February 14. Several HOW members met at the Indiana Gun Club (Fortville, IN), and although it was cold, a good time was had by all. Drew Youngedyke from the National Wildlife Federation joined us and brought a supply of Winchester steel shot ammunition to help promote the NWF's "Lead-Free" and "Hunt Clean" initiative. If you have never attended a HOW Fun Shoot (or if it's been a while), check out all the fun we had on pages 5-6. After the shooting was done, everyone made the short drive over to the fairgrounds and joined the other HOW members who were already gathering for the special press reception sponsored by Renfro Productions at the Indiana State Fairgrounds Coliseum.



HOW members and guests enjoyed the press reception at the Coliseum Lounge. Here Phil Seng and his wife Laura smile for the camera. Behind them is Gary Redmon and his wife Gayle, and Mike Schoonveld.

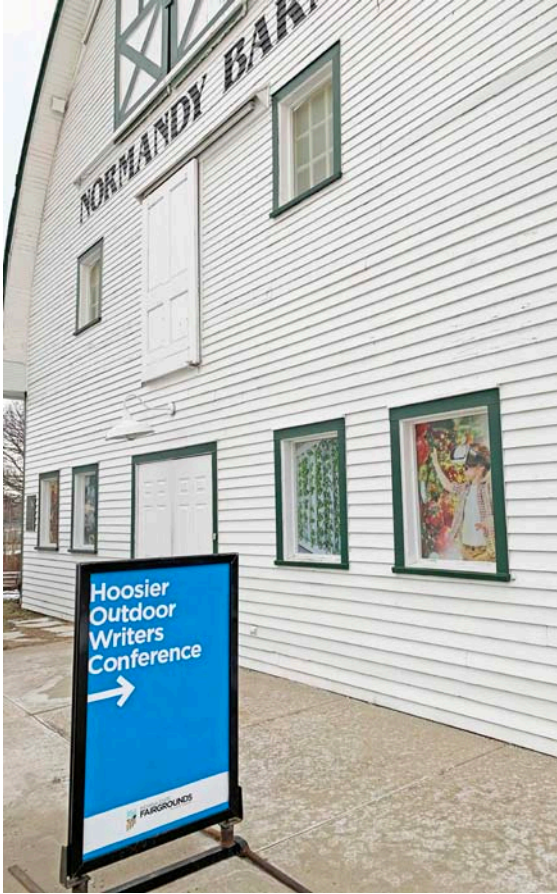
After the media reception was over, most HOW members and their guests walked down to the show floor and explored all that the Boat, Sport & Travel Show has to offer. Tackle Town is always a big draw, and we saw just about every fishing rod, reel, lure and gadget you can imagine. But there were also lots of powerboats, canoes, kayaks, and almost any other kind of floating craft known to mankind. Outfitters, taxidermists, resorts, marinas, bait shops and more were there in force. If you were looking for an RV of any type, you were sure to find it. Tourism bureaus were also well-represented.



Foreground from left to right: Rick Bramwell, Garry Burch, Marilyn Culler and Pam Hines (wife of Richard Hines). Standing in background: Don Cranfill and Scott Weaver. Tom Berg Photos.

(continued on next page)





The annual meeting began at 8:00am on Saturday morning, and the attending HOW members and guests met at the historic Normandy Barn (photo at left by Marilyn Culler) on the north end of the Indiana State Fairgrounds. As usual, the first hour of the meeting was set aside for registration, coffee and social time for the membership.



HOW President Mike Schoonveld.

HOW President Mike Schoonveld called the meeting to order at 9:00am and provided a few opening remarks, then briefed those present on the day's schedule. Afterwards, Schoonveld introduced Amy Howell, the Director of Communications and Media Relations from the Indiana Office of Tourism Development.

Ms. Howell welcomed the HOW membership and described a few of the great things to see and do around the Hoosier state. She also talked about some of the projects the Office of Tourism Development was working on this year. There are lots of great stories out there – you just have to find them! She also brought a supply of travel guides and press kits for HOW members to take home after the conference.



Brandon Butler from Roeslein.

When it was time for the first seminar of the day, President Schoonveld took the microphone and introduced fellow HOW member Brandon Butler, now the Director of Communications for Roeslein Alternative Energy (RAE). Butler started his presentation by describing the work that RAE does (for example) by helping hog farms capture methane and convert it into environmentally-friendly renewable natural gas (RNG). Besides the production of biofuel, the RAE method also reduces hog farm odors and VOC (volatile organic compounds), and allows the solids from the processed manure to be used as fertilizer for the soil.

Along with converting agricultural wastes into RNG, Butler also described RAE's plans for utilizing cover crops and prairie grass to produce RNG, fertilizer and compost materials. Anaerobic digesters can convert the grasses and plant material into usable products, while preserving and restoring native prairie ecosystems for wildlife. The ecological benefits of such a system directly

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impact habitats critical for countless game and non-game species.

The next seminar speaker of the day was **Consulting Forester Perry Seitzinger**, and he led a discussion on the history of forests and forest management in Indiana. Besides owning a forestry consulting firm, 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.



Perry Seitzinger discusses forestry management in Indiana and what we can do to help our forests.

Seitzinger talked about forest management in Indiana’s early days, or the lack of forest management, and how it affected both the land and the plant and animal species that lived there. One of the interesting differences between Hoosier forests of the past and our existing forests now is that our woods today are old – and aging fast. Healthy forests should include areas with a mixture of young and old trees.

Historically, natural fires, tornadoes and other events cleared certain forested areas and made way for new, natural growth for the trees. Bird and animal species adapted to this natural phenomenon and they were able to make their homes in the changing forests. Today’s protected forests do not allow for much clearing of trees, so new growth is inhibited. This is one of the biggest reasons why ruffed grouse (for example) have declined so dramatically in our state.

If Hoosier outdoorsmen and women can become actively engaged in forest conservation, we can bring about change in the way our forests are managed. If we can restore the type of habitat that species like ruffed grouse require for survival, they can be saved from their current endangered status.

Before breaking for lunch, President Mike Schoonveld called the HOW Business Meeting to order. HOW Nominating Chairman John Martino presented the proposed slate of new officers for the coming year. Kenny Bayless was elected our new President, Phil Seng was elected Vice-President and Mike Schoonveld will become the Board Chairman. Our new Board members (terms expiring in 2022) include: Rick Bramwell, Jack Spaulding, Marilyn Culler, John Maxwell and Troy McCormick. Thank you to all of our new volunteers!

After the elections and business meeting were concluded, an excellent buffet lunch was served by our caterer, right inside the Normandy Barn. Everyone relaxed and socialized for an hour before the afternoon activities began. A big thank-you goes out to the **National Shooting Sports Foundation** for sponsoring the lunch again this year at the HOW conference.

The first seminar after lunch was titled “**Stopping Asian Carp**”. Senior Communications Coordinator Drew YoungeDyke from the National Wildlife Federation’s Great Lakes Regional Center discussed the threat that the various species of invasive Asian carp pose to the Great Lakes (and all of our waters, really). Bighead carp, silver carp, black carp and grass carp all seem to be here to stay, but



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Drew Youngedyke from the NWF talks about efforts to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes.

we must do everything in our power to stop their spread and keep them out of Lake Michigan and the rest of the Great Lakes.

YoungeDyke explained how Asian carp have gained a strong foothold in the Mississippi River basin, and have already spread throughout much of the Illinois, Wabash, Ohio and Tennessee River systems. The invasive carp have used these rivers like highways to expand their territory, and as they do so they are displacing many native species and wreaking havoc on local ecosystems.

He also spoke about the various methods being considered and implemented to help stop the spread of these destructive carp, including blocking their pathways with acoustic barriers, water jets, noise cannons, electric barriers and others. The Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Illinois is one location on the Illinois River where many of these methods are/will be employed to try to keep Asian carp out of Lake Michigan.

Efforts to monitor Asian carp and someday eradicate them – or at least reduce their populations – are already underway. Commercial fishing incentives could be one way to combat these fish. There are other ways, too.

Several large and well-known conservation organizations have joined forces to create the Great Lakes Conservation Coalition to fight Asian carp. The National Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited, the Izaak Walton League, Trout Unlimited and many others have joined this coalition. As members of the outdoor media, we can also help by writing about the Asian carp fight and raising public awareness.

As YoungeDyke finished his presentation on Asian Carp, he introduced Emily Wood, the executive director of the Indiana Wildlife Federation. Ms. Wood brought the HOW membership up to date on some of the IWF’s recent in-state conservation work, including updates on the Asian Carp issue. She also discussed the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act, which has the proactive goal of preventing wildlife from becoming endangered in Indiana (and other states).

Next, she shared some details on the recent birding report that North America has lost 2.9 billion birds since 1970. That really is a staggering number. But birds are not the only species at risk. In fact, 33% of wildlife species are now considered at risk of extinction at some point in the future. There are 12,000 “Species of Greatest Conservation Need” (SGCN), and there are currently 1,600 species listed under the Endangered Species Act. There is lots of work still to do!



Emily Wood from the NWF’s state affiliate (Indiana Wildlife Federation) discusses declining species here in Indiana, like the ruffed grouse and the eastern meadowlark (for example). Photos by Tom Berg.

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

Lt. Col. Terry Hyndman from the IDNR Law Enforcement Division, along with nine other members of the TIP Board, were present to announce this year’s TIP Contest winners.

He gave a brief description of the TIP program and the TIP mission, and he also thanked the HOW members who submitted their TIP articles this year before announcing the awards. Lt. Col. Hyndman also said that he and the entire TIP Board were happy with the quality of the TIP Writing Contest entries this year, but next year they would like to see even more participation by HOW members.



**Top Right:** Lt. Col. Terry Hyndman describes Indiana’s TIP Program and how it benefits wildlife and sportsmen alike. **Above Left:** HOW member Tom Berg (left) accepts his 2<sup>nd</sup> Place award from Lt. Col. Hyndman. **Above Right:** HOW member Marilyn Culler (left) accepts her 3<sup>rd</sup> Place award while TIP Board President Joe Cales looks on. 1<sup>st</sup> Place winner Larry LaGrange (not pictured) was not present and not able to accept his award in person. Thank you to the TIP Board!

**Here is the list of the 2020 TIP Contest award winners:**

**First Place:** Larry LaGrange, for his article:  
**“TIP Program Paying Off for Indiana Sportsmen”**

**Second Place:** Tom Berg, for his article:  
**“Hoosier Sportsmen Against Poachers”**

**Third Place:** Marilyn Culler, for her article:  
**“DNR’s TIP Program Helps Curb Illegal Poaching”**







**2020 HOW Awards-In-Craft winners (L to R):** Tom Berg, John Maxwell, Mike Schoonveld, Richard Hines, Marilyn Culler, Mike Lunsford, John Martino and Ken McBroom. Not shown: Rich Creason and Troy McCormick. Thank you to Curt McAllister and **Toyota Motor Sales**, the corporate sponsor of the HOW Awards-In-Craft contests this year. Photo by Lori Berg.

Next, outgoing HOW President Mike Schoonveld informed the membership that it was time to announce the results of the **2020 HOW Awards-In-Craft** contests.

Cash prizes and certificates were awarded to the best of the best in the annual Writing Contest, the Photography Contest and the Broadcast Contest. Many thanks go to Curt McAllister and **Toyota Motor Sales** for once again sponsoring our contests and for recognizing the achievements of our members. Check out the complete contest results on pages 18-19 to see who submitted the best work this year.

The last seminar of the day was led by tournament crappie angler Bret Cunningham. Cunningham is a pro-staff member for Nothead Tackle and other fishing tackle companies, and his presentation was titled **“Learn to Catch Crappies from Any Body of Water”**. He has competed in over 100 state and national tournaments, and in the past he has won the Indiana Slab Masters Classic and finished 8th in the Crappie USA National Championship.

Cunningham shared some of the knowledge he has gained from fishing competitively at the state and national level for finding crappies and getting them to bite. From water clarity and water temperature to sunlight penetration, there are many factors in individual waters that make crappie become active.

He also discussed some of his favorite tackle for chasing crappies. Lightweight feather jigs are just one of his preferred lures for finesse presentations when crappies are less aggressive. But soft plastic jigs and curly-tailed jigs can also be very productive.

The final activity of the day was the annual HOW Raffle. As usual, this is the favorite part of the meeting for many HOW members! Raffle Chairman Tom Berg organized another great event this year, easily filling several banquet tables with fabulous outdoor products from our loyal HOW Supporting Members (and several new Supporting Members). This year he and his helpers secured donations from **65** companies, organizations and individuals. That is quite a bit less than last year, but the change



Bret Cunningham talks about finding suspended crappies and coaxing them to bite, even when they might not want to strike a lure. Photo by Tom Berg.

(continued next page)

in conference timing (February) explains most of the donation shortfalls. Even so, we had a great assortment of raffle items again this year. Tom would also like to thank John Galambos and Rich Creason for their help in securing a number of the items again this year. Thank you!

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



**Above:** Gary Redmon (L) and Jarrett Manek (R) view items on one of the many tables filled to overflowing with great outdoor products for the HOW Raffle. **Below Right:** Louie Stout (L) shows Rick Bramwell (R) one of the great Shimano ultralight reels that were up for grabs in the raffle. Raffle photos by Tom Berg.



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

As HOW members have come to expect, this year's raffle featured quality as well as quantity when it came to the items to be raffled-off. Archers and bowhunters were glad to see a great Mission Archery compound bow on the raffle table. Firearms aficionados were happy with this year's raffle prizes again, as we had a beautiful **Henry** .22 caliber American Eagle lever-action rifle, a fantastic **Ruger** American Hunter rifle chambered in .308 WIN, and a very cool **Mossberg** Patriot Predator 450 Bushmaster rifle. We also had an abundance of shooting supplies, optics, ammunition, electronic earmuffs, gun cleaning products and much more. We even had a Daisy Red Ryder BB gun with the HOW logo engraved on the stock!

Fishermen in the crowd were impressed by an incredible array of fishing lures of all shapes, sizes and colors. We also had several Vexilar SonarPhones, premium rodholders, fishing rods, fishing reels, fishing line and tackle boxes. There was also a Boat US membership, duck and turkey calls, outdoors books,



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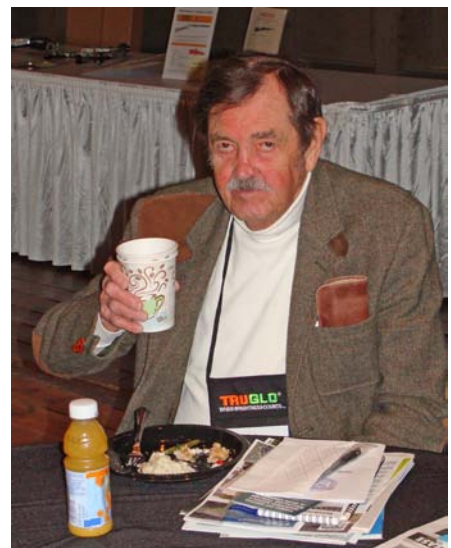
field guides, premium backpacks, high quality sunglasses, hunting gear, shirts, hats, gloves, waterproof binoculars, knives, camping gear, cast iron cookware, hiking boots and other outdoor gear. We also had many gift certificates for products and services from our generous Supporting Members.



**Above Left:** Gene Clifford (L) and Ray Dickerson (R) reminisce during one of the short break periods. **Above Right:** Professional raffle ticket salesman Jack Spaulding smiles as he realizes he has already sold most of the raffle tickets!

The 2020 raffle was another huge success! Of course, without the support and generosity of our Supporting Members the raffle would not happen at all. For a complete listing of this year's raffle donors, please see page 9. Please support them in your work whenever possible, and send them a thank-you note when you get a chance. Don't forget to mail or email them tearsheets or online links when you feature their products in your work, too. It is important to support our corporate members!

**Below Left:** A view of some of the HOW members and guests listening to one of the morning seminars. **Below Right:** HOW member Bob Jennings enjoys another cup of coffee as he finishes his lunch during the Saturday conference.



# The HOW 2020 Awards-In-Craft Contest

The results are in! The winners of the 2020 Awards-In-Craft (AIC) contest were announced at this year's annual conference in Indianapolis, and we had a large number of excellent entries. As usual, the writing portion of the contest drew the most interest, as HOW members submitted a total of 74 entries from 14 different HOW members. This was fewer writing contest entries when compared to 2019 when we had 97 entries, but there was less time to enter this year since the conference was in February. I still think we can hit 100 entries next year, so be sure to send in your entries in 2021! You can't win if you don't play, and there is no cost to participate. The photography contest included 43 entries from eight HOW members, which is several more than we had last year (38). The Broadcast contest featured only two entries, so we need more participation there next year!

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

Once again this year the Awards-In-Craft contest was sponsored by **Toyota Motor Sales**, so the winners were awarded checks along with certificates to commemorate their achievements. We would like to thank Toyota for their generous sponsorship in 2020. HOW members are encouraged to log on to the Toyota website ([www.toyotanewsroom.com](http://www.toyotanewsroom.com)) to find out more about their products and recent news releases.

A special thank-you also goes to our contest coordinators who donated their time and energy to secure judges and get each of the entries reviewed and scored in time for the annual conference. Dealing with a large number of submissions which are typically sent right before the deadline always makes coordinating the entries/judges difficult, but the electronic entries really helped. The 2020 Awards-In-Craft coordinators were: Troy McCormick (Writing), John Martino (Photography) and Tom Berg (Broadcast).

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

## **WRITING CONTEST** (74 entries from 14 different HOW members)

### **Hunting/Trapping (Less Than 1000 Words)**

- 1st: John Martino, "A Deer of Any Size Can Be a Trophy"
- 2nd: Tom Berg, "Gear Up for the Dove Opener"
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "Hunting with a Henry"

### **Hunting/Trapping (More Than 1000 Words)**

- 1st: Tom Berg, "The Coyote Triple-Play!"
- 2nd: Ken McBroom, "Turkey Tips" **-- TIE --**
- 2nd: Ken McBroom, "Lever Action Bushytails" **-- TIE --**
- 3rd: Mike Schoonveld, "Always Time for Squirrels"

### **Fishing (Less Than 1000 Words)**

- 1st: Richard Hines, "Old Trout Tactics Still Work"
- 2nd: John Martino, "Looking Back, How Did We Survive Childhood?"
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "Chasing Catfish on the White River"

### **Fishing (More Than 1000 Words)**

- 1st: Mike Schoonveld, "Lead Core Line Lessons"
- 2nd: Ken McBroom, "The Obey River – Wild and Scenic"
- 3rd: Richard Hines, "Summer Crappie: Beat the Heat by Going Deep"

## WRITING CONTEST (Continued)

### **Conservation (Less Than 1000 Words)**

- 1st: John Martino, "Turkey Season Recalls Historic Moment"
- 2nd: Mike Lunsford, "The Old Man Who Planted a Tree"
- 3rd: Mike Schoonveld, "Help Make R3 Work"

### **Conservation (More Than 1000 Words)**

- 1st: Richard Hines, "Elk Restoration East of the Big River"
- 2nd: Richard Hines, "Prescribed Fire: Extinguishing the Myths"
- 3rd: Mike Schoonveld, "How Old is that Fish?"

### **General Outdoors (Less Than 1000 Words)**

- 1st: Mike Lunsford, "Turkey Vultures: Nature's Custodial Engineers"
- 2nd: John Martino, "Atwell Shoot Benefits Fallen Soldiers"
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "Finding Invisible Mushrooms"

### **General Outdoors (More Than 1000 Words)**

- 1st: Ken McBroom, "Hooked on the Outdoors"
- 2nd: Mike Schoonveld, "Hawg Trough Coming to Cincinnati"
- 3rd: Rich Creason, "Finding Treasure and Relics in North America" -- TIE --
- 3rd: Mike Schoonveld, "The Show is the Place to Make the Plan" -- TIE --



## PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST (43 entries from 8 different HOW members)

### **Hunting/Trapping**

- 1st: Tom Berg, "Father and Son Dove Hunt"
- 2nd: Ken McBroom, "Lever Action Bushytails"
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "Beagle Helps Bag a Bunny"

### **Fishing**

- 1st: Ken McBroom, "Hooked on Fishing"
- 2nd: Tom Berg, "Smallmouth Bass at the Boat"
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "Teenager's First Big Salmon"

### **Outdoor Scenic**

- 1st: John Maxwell, "Busching Covered Bridge in Autumn"
- 2nd: Mike Lunsford, "Persimmons in January"
- 3rd: John Martino, "Up in the Clouds of the Rocky Mountains"

### **Outdoor Recreation**

- 1st: John Maxwell, "Independence Day Boating at Monroe Lake"
- 2nd: Tom Berg, "Taking Careful Aim"
- 3rd: Marilyn Culler, "What Is It?"

## BROADCAST CONTEST (2 entries from 1 HOW member)

### **Best TV Broadcast**

- 1st: Troy McCormick, "Scottish Stag: Bootprints.TV Episode 14"
- 2nd: Troy McCormick, "Wyoming Pheasants: Bootprints.TV Episode 9"
- 3rd: -- No Entry --



# Advice from the Chairman

by Mike Schoonveld, Chairman of the Board

Two bits of advice I was given early on in my career as an outdoor writer had more influence on the direction that career has taken over the decades than any others. The first came from Erwin A. Bauer, a top writer who wrote for *Field and Stream*, *Outdoor Life* and many other magazines. He also penned over 50 books. He told me, “If you want to be a writer, then write. Write every day. Write at least two hours per day. Write about anything and everything. Write whether you can sell it or not - just write.”

I still do that. It’s a rare day when I don’t spend at least two hours at the keyboard, just writing. Most sells, some doesn’t, but every day it comes easier and makes me a better writer.

The second bit of advice came from a young lady named Lisa Thomas, daughter of a well-known outdoor writer, Bodie McDowell. She’s married now and she’s known as Lisa Snuggs – and she is the executive director of the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association. She advised me long ago to join an outdoor writer’s group, such as the Hoosier Outdoor Writers, Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers or Outdoor Writers Association of America.

I did that, as well.

Each of these groups have a minimum criteria to meet before being accepted as an “Active” member. An outdoor communicator has to write a minimum number of columns, features, books, blogs, take so many published photos or produce a minimum number of videos, radio shows or podcasts to qualify as an active member.

Those were early goals in my career – to produce enough “content” to join. HOW was the least restrictive and the first group I joined. That led me to opportunities I would never have had as an “independent” and I quickly sold enough content to qualify as a member of the regional, AGLOW group and the national OWAA group.

These quickly led to more opportunities and more outlets for my work, while I continued cranking out a minimum of two hours of writing each day. Just becoming a member gave me the credentials needed to open doors to places I’d have been hard pressed to go on my own. Just joining gave me insights and invites to use gear and equipment I’d never have the chance or money to use on my own.

Once I joined, I started attending some of the conferences and other functions held by or for these groups. I could interact with other outdoor communicators and learn from them in formal and informal settings.

My advice to you, now, is merely something I’m passing on, not something I figured out by myself. First, embrace the career. Even if it’s a part-time career. Devote a couple hours each day to it, whether it’s writing, photography, videography or whatever. Then join more than just the Hoosier Outdoor Writers. Join AGLOW, OWAA, POMA, SEOPA or groups from other states where you write or play.

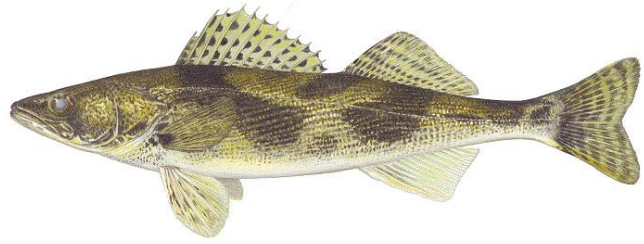
You won’t regret it.



# DNR News

## Division of Fish & Wildlife

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



**For immediate release:** January 16, 2020

## Regulations for Catching Certain Ohio River Fish are Changing

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has amended regulations for catching sauger, walleye, and saugeye on the Ohio River.

The new rule, which will take effect January 19, permits a bag limit of six *Sander* species, the collective term for these fish, in aggregate per day. There will be a possession limit of 12 *Sander* species in aggregate, and a minimum length limit of 14 inches. Previous regulations permitted the take of 10 *Sander* species in aggregate per day, a possession limit of 20 *Sander* species, and had no minimum length limit. This DNR emergency rule aligns Indiana regulations for the Ohio River with new Kentucky regulations.

Sauger is the most sought-after sport fish of the *Sander* species on the Ohio, and is prized as excellent table fare. During the winter and early spring, sauger congregate downstream of dams and provide prime angling opportunities; however, high harvest rates anglers are experiencing are not allowing the sauger population to reach its full potential.

The Ohio River Fisheries Management Team (ORFMT) analyzed long-term survey data and recommended these regulations in 2019 in an effort to increase the size and age structure and therefore the quality of the Ohio River sauger fishery as a way to ensure the sauger population remains sustainable for future generations.

For more info about the new regulations, visit <https://www.IN.gov/nrc/files/lsa20007e.pdf>.

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

**Media contact:** Sam Peterson, assistant big rivers fisheries biologist, DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife, phone: 812-789-2724, email: [SPeterson1@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:SPeterson1@dnr.IN.gov).





# DNR News

## Division of Fish & Wildlife

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

**For immediate release:** April 22, 2020

## Trout season opens Saturday, April 25

DNR fisheries staff have been busy in recent days stocking thousands of trout in preparation for the opening of inland stream trout season this Saturday at 6 a.m. local time.

By opening day, DNR will have stocked over 23,000 rainbow trout in 17 streams in 12 different counties. To find a stocked stream near you, see the 2020 Trout Stocking Plan at [wildlife.IN.gov/5457.htm](http://wildlife.IN.gov/5457.htm).

The stocked trout come from Curtis Creek Trout Rearing Station near Howe in LaGrange County and average roughly 11 inches in length.

Trout will bite on a variety of different artificial baits such as spinners and flies, but natural baits such as worms and bee moths tend to be the most popular.

The bag limit for trout in inland waters, other than Lake Michigan and its tributaries, is five fish per day with a minimum size of 7 inches. No more than one of these can be a brown trout. Any brown trout kept from the Whitewater River must be at least 18 inches in length.

Anglers 18 years and older need an Indiana fishing license and a Trout/Salmon Stamp Privilege to fish for trout. Per Indiana Executive Order, existing 2019-20 annual licenses and stamps, including fishing licenses and Trout/Salmon Stamp Privileges, are valid until May 22, 2020.

Hoosiers should follow posted restrictions and practice social distancing while outdoors. For the most up-to-date information regarding DNR and COVID-19, visit [on.IN.gov/dnrcovid19](http://on.IN.gov/dnrcovid19).

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

**Media contact:** Matt Horsley, assistant fisheries biologist, DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife, phone: 260-829-6241, email: [mhorsley@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:mhorsley@dnr.IN.gov).



Rainbow trout provide great sport and are fine eating. Take a kid fishing this spring and get in on the fast action! Photo by Tom Berg.



## 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:

Looking like a Dr. Seuss character, the **Roseate Spoonbill** (*Platalea ajaja*) is an avian anomaly. “From a long distance it’s easy to spot and identify this bird,” said HOW Board Member Dave Hoffman with a chuckle. “It’s a large, long-legged, bright-pink bird that feeds horizontally in shallow water.” Upon closer examination, spoonbills possess a row of dark pink ‘fringe’ feathers, a slightly-balding head with red eyes, and a grayish spatula-shaped bill. They rank near the top of the list of almost everyone’s favorite bird.



Like flamingos, the hue of the spoonbill’s feathers is derived from carotenoid pigments in their diet. Feeding on crustaceans, mollusks, aquatic insects, and small minnows, spoonbills sweep their partially-opened bills from side-to-side while probing for prey in shallow water. If they feel a food item, they quickly snap their bill closed.

The only spoonbill species in the U.S. is found primarily on the Texas and western Louisiana gulf coast, and the coastal waters of southern Florida. “I located them simply by researching local eBird reports on recent sightings in my region,” explained Hoffman. Spoonbills tend to be quite tolerant of photographers, and he was even able to record a video of their feeding behavior on his cell phone.

“I also wanted to share the photo (at left) of a behavior pretty unique to spoonbills,” he continued. “I noticed that as a small group of spoonbills flew overhead, this lone spoonbill raised his head straight up in the air and then flew off to join them. Later, I read that this behavior is known as ‘sky gazing’ among spoonbills. I was happy to have been there and snapped a photo when it happened. The more I learn about these unique birds, the more I want to know.”



Foraging roseate spoonbills may be observed in many shallow ponds and lakes in Florida, although major nesting sites are often found in wildlife refuges.





## Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

### Report from Dave Hoffman (continued):

Hoffman didn't stop with the spoonbills. "I observed my first **Black-Bellied Whistling-Duck** (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) about 10-years ago in southern Florida, but at that time they weren't even listed in my tattered field guide," he said. Native to Central and South America, the 'Whistlers' have expanded rapidly to the north, even though they are considered non to minimally migratory. "Nowadays you can observe them at Indiana Dunes State Park and Goose Pond, as well as northern Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin."



This year, the black-bellied whistling-ducks first arrived in Port Charlotte, Florida during mid-March. At Ollie's Pond, a 41-acre photographer's paradise, they arrived in large, boisterous flocks. "Groups were skirmishing like rival street gangs," Hoffman added. "Days later the pond held two to three-hundred individuals, and while they were noisy and bold they weren't camera-shy at all."

Having a goose-like body with a long neck and pink legs, the handsome black-bellied whistling-duck has a pink bill. Their breast is a chestnut hue and their belly is, of course, black! As a side note, the 2020 Federal Duck Stamp will feature black-bellied whistling-ducks. The stamps go on sale June 1, 2020.

### Report from Bill Keaton:

HOW Legal Advisor Bill Keaton keeps a close eye on the wildlife on his property, and birds are no exception. "Our **Brown Thrashers** (*Toxostoma rufum*) have returned for the spring and summer," reported Keaton. "We always have one or two pairs that nest on our property. Of course, we have very diverse habitat including woods, a prairie grass field, river and a hayfield. The brown thrashers are here every year. We also have wood thrush and other similar birds when the weather warms up."

"I took this photo of a brown thrasher as it was digging in the mulch in front of our house, looking for worms. It was finding quite a few, too." Foraging brown thrashers are happy to eat worms of all kinds, including nightcrawlers, cutworms and caterpillars. They also love to eat insects like crickets, grasshoppers, beetles and ants. Small snakes and lizards are considered fair game, too. A variety of seeds and small fruits often enter their diet as well.

**Did you take a cool bird photo while exploring afield recently? Did you see the bird at home? While traveling?** HOW members are encouraged to send their interesting bird photos to newsletter editor and bird enthusiast Tom Berg ([thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net)) for use in future editions of the "Interesting Bird Sightings" page. Don't worry, it does not need to be a rare bird. Your fellow HOW members would love to see your bird pictures.



# Calling for a Snow Storm

Story and photos by HOW Past President John Martino

Even though the temperatures hovered somewhere around 50 degrees, the forecast called for snow and lots of it. Snow geese, that is. Recently, a group of friends and I traveled to the state of Arkansas to take part in a light geese conservation hunt. This is a nationwide initiative to help reduce the numbers of snow, blue and Ross geese, collectively known as “light geese.”

Staggering numbers of light geese are decimating great areas of the arctic where they nest. Then on their migratory paths to our southern states, they can lay entire crop fields to waste as they come together in massive flocks to feed. Unlike Canada geese, which nip vegetation off above ground level, light geese pull it up from the roots.

Making the trip with me was my son Joseph. We were joined by longtime friends Brady Irwin, Dennis Freidline, Byron Padgett, Shawn Stevens and his black lab “Chance”. Brian Parker along with Mike Bair and his Chesapeake Bay retriever “Avery” would come from Ohio to join us, too.

Arriving in Dumas, after the 11-hour drive, we met Jesse Ray from S and B Outfitters. Personable in nature, he took time to explain the areas we would be hunting and talked about the number of birds he had seen. It is no secret our group enjoys having fun, with lots of friendly bantering among us. Ray fit in perfectly.

For those who have never done it, this single late winter goose hunt can provide more shooting opportunities than an entire season in Indiana. In my three days of hunting we saw somewhere around half-a-million geese, sometimes looking like clouds stretching from horizon to horizon. Freidline put it in perspective when he said “out of all the birds we have seen you have to remember we are only looking at one tiny dot of land in this entire region of the United States.”



The blue skies of Arkansas were filled with clouds of snow geese, sometimes numbering in the tens of thousands.

The trip reminded me of what it must have been like when vast buffalo herds covered the prairies during frontier days or the years when millions of passenger pigeons would block out the sun. In today’s world, the great migration of light geese might be the closest example.

But taking large numbers is not as easy as one might think. Hunters must be constantly scouting for feed areas, then properly placing up to 2,000 decoys of every make and style. Electronic callers and motion decoys should also be placed among the spread. It’s an operation that requires a good amount of effort and Ray did a remarkable job. After spending the day with our group he would sometimes work through the night setting new spreads, making sure everything was just right before the predawn hunt would begin. Naturally, it’s only

fair our group helped at every opportunity.

I have been fortunate enough to witness many unique and once in a lifetime events through years of hunting many different states. However, one of the greatest spectacles I’ve seen took place while peering through the openings of a well camouflaged blind buried in a ditch overlooking a huge Arkansas rice field.

Shortly after daylight, we watched with excitement as literally thousands of geese moved in our direction. Each of us wondered if they would come within range or veer off at the last minute, like most of the others. Flying unidirectional, several massive flocks came together directly above our spread – where all of us stood with shotguns

(continued next page)



in hand. The noise this many geese make can be impressive in itself. Between the massive spread of 1,600 decoys and the cloud of birds winging overhead we were in goose hunting mecca. Needless to say, we collected a good amount of birds during that single volley.

But even with the amazing number of birds, this type of hunting can also be frustrating. We watched hundreds of thousands of birds every day, many times what seemed like a sure bet would dissipate quickly. This is inevitable in any hunting scenario.

Every day a few birds to great flocks would work our direction, only to flair off at the last second. Even then, I was in awe at the constant number of birds we'd see. It was also fun watching them circle our blind just a bit out of range, their heads swinging from side to side trying to catch any sign of something amiss. These birds are not dumb. They are hunted from their nesting grounds in the Arctic all the way to their winter range in our southern states. They learn quickly and it's predominately the juveniles that get taken.

The state of Arkansas makes hunting for light geese extremely simple. All you need is a hunting license from any other state and call-in for a free registration number. Bag limits are very liberal, and by that I mean there are none.

Unlike the demise of the great herds of buffalo and passenger pigeons through unlimited market hunting, the conservation of light geese is being accomplished through sound science. Biologists are using hunters to help fulfill their objectives.

If you have any interest in water fowling, or may just like to try it, these types of special conservation hunts are the best. But be forewarned. I guarantee the first time you find yourself standing under a whirling cloud of honking snow geese you will be hooked for life.



A group of friends from the Howard County, Indiana area recently returned from participating in a conservation hunt for light geese in Arkansas with S and B Outfitters. The author, John Martino, is shown at the far left.

# Turkeys in Town

Story and photo by HOW member Bryan McFadden

With the spring season here and everybody on lockdown from the Coronavirus, I can't help but dream about harvesting a spring gobbler. The smell of the dirt, wearing camouflage clothing again and social distancing myself on a hickory stump would be just fine with me. It is hard to do anything but dream about it since I live in the concrete jungle of town.

The city life presents its own unique outdoor activities when you live on a postage stamp-sized piece of ground. Picking up dog poop, taking out the trash and recycling, raking some leaves and sweeping the porch all fall into that category. My daydreaming always takes me back to the woods with a gobbler strutting around – until the noise from a train, plane or automobile slaps me back to reality.

The daydreaming was becoming an issue. According to my wife, it was hard for me to pay attention. I told her I was envisioning the future. I was willing myself to believe I could harvest a turkey this spring through daydreaming. I thought that was a great response and quite enlightening, my wife not so much.

I had pulled out my twelve gauge shotgun and cleaned and disassembled it several times now. My cleaning was almost to the point it may be additional wear and tear on the equipment. My hunting gear was ready, just in case the Department of Natural Resources wanted to move up the turkey opener for some reason. I was itching to get outside, in the woods, with a firearm, in camo, away from others and with a smile on my face. Of course, you couldn't see my smile because my face would be covered in camo. I hope you get my drift and the potential side effects of the coronavirus pandemic. Just then, my fate was written in stone.

As I was daydreaming and gazing out my back patio sliding door, something caught my eye. It looked as if something had dropped from the large spruce tree in my neighbor's yard. I quickly dismissed it and continued with my visions of the woods. I suddenly thought I saw a turkey on my back deck. I thought, this is weird. Did I put myself in a trance like some hypnotic masterpiece?

Nope, that thing is really moving! I immediately started rationalizing the situation and asked myself, "What in the world is that thing doing here?" I called to my wife to make sure I was actually seeing this bird, considering the fact I have a six-foot privacy fence and a large German shepherd. The delayed response of my wife and German shepherd to react to my surprise made me immediately seek proof. So I took a quick picture with my phone and off it went.

I had always wondered what would happen if humankind went dormant for a period, and how Mother Nature would react. It felt like this event had answered my question. It instilled in me the idea of how important it is for us to allow space for wildlife to thrive amongst us in town. It has also made me consider how important nature is to our sanity as a society of human beings.

The turkey season cannot come fast enough for me!



It's a blurry picture, but it was all Bryan McFadden from Valparaiso had time for when a wild turkey suddenly hopped down on his deck from the deck railing. Luckily he had his cell phone nearby and ready to go!





## THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US



HOW Past President Marty Jaranowski – Age 73

Martin Jaranowski, Jr., age 73, of Highland, IN passed away April 15, 2020. He was born in 1946 to Martin Jaranowski, Sr. and Jeanine Terry Jaranowski. He was known as “Marty J” to his friends, and he had many, many friends.

He is survived by his loving wife Jacqueline (nee Serocinski); cherished children: Martin (Maureen) and Nicole; adored grandchildren: Madison S. and Isabell M; siblings: Patricia (Ron), Evelyn, Kathy (Tony), Jacques (Rita), James (Dawn), Debbie and Missy; stepmother Joanna; numerous nieces and nephews. Martin was preceded in death by his parents, brother Edward and sister Mireille Roberts.

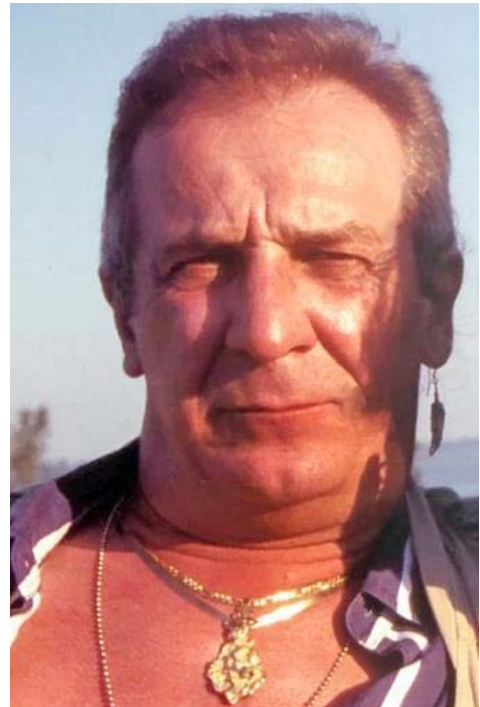
Marty was a veteran and honorably served in the United States Army. He was also a proud Union Steward of Local 786 and worked driving trucks in the Thornton quarry for many years.

Marty J was an avid hunter and fisherman and began writing about the outdoors more than 30 years ago. He was a member of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers and the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers for decades, and he was a past president of both organizations (HOW in 1996, AGLOW in 1998).

He wrote and compiled the outdoors page for the Hammond Times (later, The Times) and his popular column was titled “Outdoors With Marty J”. He was honored with the Indiana DNR Outdoor Writer/Broadcaster of the Year Award in 1994, and the Izaak Walton League Russell Sinclair Newsmedia Award for environmental writing in 2004.

Marty always made an impression wherever he went, and he had many friends in HOW and AGLOW. He will be deeply missed.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hospice of the Calumet Area. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. For the online guestbook, please visit [www.castlehillfuneralhome.com](http://www.castlehillfuneralhome.com).



# HOW Member News

## Schoonveld Snaps Up a Sure Thing

HOW Board Chairman Mike Schoonveld made a trip to south Texas this past February, where he hoped to fish for large red snappers out in the Gulf of Mexico. Evidently it was a good trip! Read on to see just how well the fish were biting.

“Almost every time I go fishing,” remarked Schoonveld, “I go through what I call ‘the pleasant uncertainty’ which occurs for a short time before I’m actually putting a lure or bait in the water. Even when it’s the height of the season, even if I fished successfully in the same place just yesterday, there’s always the chance the fish aren’t going to be as active or in the same location. Yesterday’s success doesn’t mean tomorrow’s success will be assured. It’s uncertain, but it’s a pleasant uncertainty.”

“If that’s not good enough for you, if you want certainty in a fishing trip, head for Texas in mid to late winter and go fishing for red snappers. You will catch them - you will catch your limit of snappers - and most fun of all - you’ll feel like you’ve had your cardio workout for the day after each fish is hauled to the top.”

“I learned this by accident two winters ago when I chose a location for a winter break trip more on the likelihood of finding something other than cold and snow outside my window than for the chance to get in on some great fishing. Even in southern states, winter slows the bite for most fishing. If you want some great action, head south in the spring, summer or fall – at least for most species.”

“It’s a long story of how I ended up at Port Aransas, TX, a story which included Hurricane Harvey which hit nearly dead center there a few years earlier. When investigating fishing opportunities, one of the locations, called the Deep Sea Headquarters, told me, ‘We run a special called *Toofer Tuesday* for red snappers each week. Buy one ticket and bring a friend for free.’ Cool.”

“I’m nothing if not cheap so I was already sold, but I asked anyway, ‘Is the fishing usually pretty good?’ The lady answered like I’d asked if there was any ice cream at Baskin Robbins. ‘Well, yeah!’ she said.”



Mike Schoonveld holds one of the nice-sized red snappers he caught in Texas while fishing out of Port Aransas. Obviously the Deep See Headquarters is a good place to go when you want to catch plenty of fish! Photo courtesy of Mike Schoonveld.

“She was right, the fishing was indeed phenomenal! The limit is four snappers per person and on every trip I’ve taken since then, every person on the boat caught their limit. The only uncertainty was if a person was up to re-baiting and dropping back down for another fish immediately, or if they needed a bit of a rest before heading back to the rail.”

“We fished out of Port Aransas and I highly recommend that area as a fun, laid back destination. I’ve not been to the other locations, but similar fishing can be found farther south in Port Mansfield and Port Isabel. Plan a trip! You’ll get the “pleasant uncertainty” - at least the first time you go. I’m certain you’ll want to go back.”



## Garbers Delves Deeply into “Cowboy Action Shooting”

It’s no secret that HOW Past President Alan Garbers has been bitten by the “Cowboy Action Shooting” bug, and his case is pretty serious. Worse than that, though, is he has now contracted a bad case of WBAS (Wild Bunch Action Shooting), too! Luckily, there is a bright side – or multiple bright sides. Besides getting to have fun, shoot guns and play cowboy, Garbers has been able to write quite a few articles about the topic that pay pretty well. His latest article was printed in GUNS Magazine (see tearsheet below).

“I often have folks asking me why I like cowboy action shooting, and its offshoot (pun intended), Wild Bunch Action Shooting,” said Garbers.

“As soon as I dove into cowboy action shooting, it quickly became an addiction. The guns, the clothing and the action provided a rush that I just couldn’t get enough of. One day, my fellow shooters (victims of the same addiction) invited me to attend a Wild Bunch match so I could get more shooting in per month. While the guns and rules were slightly different than the cowboy action shooting matches that I was used to, the match was informal enough that I could still shoot my “cowboy guns” while everyone else shot their “Wild Bunch” guns. Even so, seeing the uniforms they wore and the guns they shot got me wondering what “Wild Bunch” was all about. Curiosity got the better of me and I watched The Wild Bunch movie. If you’ve never seen the William Holden – Ernest Borgnine movie, do it. It’s not for kids or the squeamish, but it is a must-see classic.”

“Since the movie is technically a western, but set in the 1913 backdrop of the Mexican Revolution, many shooters wear cowboy clothing mixed with WWI US Army uniforms to match the styles in the movie. In the matches, shooters must use weapons seen in the movie, predominantly (and my favorite) the Colt 1911, the Winchester 97 shotgun, and the Winchester 92 rifle.”

“The allure of the Wild Bunch matches is that shooters can act the part of their favorite anti-hero, shoot guns designed and possibly made a hundred years ago, and participate in a non-competitive sport like no other. Before you say you’re too old or out of shape to play, keep in mind that most CAS and Wild Bunch shooters are over 60 years old – and some are in their 80s!”

“Sure, younger shooters can run a stage faster than me, but they can’t have more fun than me.”

To read the full article, go to [www.gunsmagazine.com](http://www.gunsmagazine.com) and search for “Wild Bunch”. Or better yet, check out the website and then buy a subscription!

**THE GUNS** *Of The* **Wild BUNCH**

**POPCORN AND GUNFIRE OFTEN GO TOGETHER**

**ALAN GARBERS**

It has been 50 years since the movie *The Wild Bunch* hit the silver screen. Before you conjure up images of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid blowing up railroad cars, redirect your thoughts to the other Wild Bunch, the movie starring William Holden, Ernest Borgnine and Ben Johnson.

I don't want to spoil the plot for those who have never seen the movie but it's key to our story. The movie is set against the backdrop of the Mexican Revolution in 1913 and follows an aging band of misfit desperados looking for one last grand haul in a changing world. Their first attempt becomes a miserable but violent failure, which pulls them into their second attempt. To everyone's amazement, it's an overwhelming success. But, in the process, a cost is extracted, and by the end of the movie, the ill-fated antiheroes can no longer tolerate the price they paid and seek to right their wrong.

**THE RISE OF THE ANTIHERO**

At the time, the movie shocked and yet delighted the viewing public. After 60 years of sterilized westerns featuring larger than life heroes like John Wayne, Hopalong Cassidy, Roy Rogers and Gary Cooper, *The Wild Bunch* had antiheroes whom many identify with to this day.

In most westerns, the good guys didn't die because they were good. The bad guys died or went to jail because they were bad and when anyone did die, the violence and gore was either implied or hidden. *The Wild Bunch* was just the opposite. The wounds and death were shockingly realistic. Blood flew like a Quentin Tarantino flick. Even women were not immune from the graphic novel-like gore as the anti-hero used them for human shields or exacted revenge as a jilted lover.

Filmed in 1968 during the height of the Vietnam War, director Sam Peckinpah tried to show war and killing wasn't fun, clean, or sterile as shown in other westerns of the time. He felt the excessive use of violence would shock and appall the audience and turn them away from the violence raging in Southeast Asia. Perhaps true for a few, but the general public delighted in the blood and guts as it sprayed on the screen, which bothered Peckinpah and movie critics both.

**WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM**

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"Cholla" (aka Alan Garbers) gets ready to ventilate some varmints at the rites stage of a SASS Wild Bunch shoot. Photo: Provided by Tex

Alan Garbers shown on the lead page of his article in GUNS Magazine.



## Jennings Enjoys Shooting Sports Down South

HOW member Bob Jennings doesn't particularly like cold weather. "My wife Yola and I spent some time in late winter down in Alabama in a nice RV Park," he said. "While there, I found a shooting range about five minutes away: the Styx River Shooting Center in Robertsdale, Alabama. They have some nice skeet, trap, rifle and handgun ranges. I shot 16-yard singles trap and scored 22 X 25 each time; not bad since I have not shot for over a year."

"The trap stations are voice activated. I had never shot at a voice activated range before, but it seemed to work out pretty well since a live puller might have fallen asleep on my misses or when a trap gun failed to shoot occasionally."

"All in all, the RV park (Azalea Acres RV Park in Robertsdale) is a nice one. The sites are 42 feet by 90 feet with plenty of walking and hiking places."

"The Styx River Shooting Center is stocked with plenty of firearms for trap and skeet, but they carry a wide selection of rifles and handguns as well. They also have a fine variety of shells, handloading and sporting equipment."

"The proprietor, Tony Landenwich, is very congenial and is always willing to talk about shooting and firearms," said Jennings.



**ABOVE:** Bob Jennings checks out some of the fine shotguns at the Styx River Shooting Center. **BELOW:** Shooters gather at the Styx River trap range for an afternoon of recreational shooting. Photos courtesy of Bob Jennings.





## Schoonveld Fishes with the "Bringer of Bad Weather!"

HOW Board Chairman Mike Schoonveld likes fishing for spring salmon and trout at this time of year on Lake Michigan, and sometimes the weather can be, uh, interesting. Before the lockdown, Mike headed for the lake one morning with his friend Doug Wheelock from Iowa.

Now Doug is a nice guy, and he likes fishing. But for those who don't know Doug, he has a well-earned reputation for bringing bad weather to town when he arrives. This reputation was not earned after one or two unfortunate fishing trips, either. This reputation was built over the course of more than 20 years! If Doug is coming to town to go fishing, you can place your bets with confidence that the weather will soon turn nasty.

On Lake Michigan, that usually means that calm days and gentle south winds will soon be replaced by rain or snow, northeast winds, high waves and dangerous conditions. This trip was no exception, and Doug was in town to fish for a few days.

"Supposedly," said Schoonveld, "Tuesday was going to be the bad day and Wednesday and Thursday would be nicer and with less wind. However, there was a 20% chance of snow. Doug and I launched the boat on Tuesday in Hammond and bounced over the waves to Inland Steel (Arcelor-Mittal). We caught our limit of coho salmon (10 fish) in a few hours and it felt good to escape.

It was pretty rough on the way back."



"On Wednesday morning, it started snowing as soon as we left the dock. Half way to Inland, I thought to myself, *I think it's rougher today than yesterday!* Then the blizzard hit. Big snowflakes started falling, covering everything and obscuring our vision as we tried to motor through the waves."

"Despite the heavy snow, fishing was actually a bit better than the day before. We would have been limited-out in a couple of hours, but we lost quite a few fish. That was mostly due to not paying attention since we were trying to stay upright on the icy, snow-covered deck as the boat pitched up and down in the rough seas."

"Unfortunately, we were going to have to go back through the roughest water to get back to the marina. For most of the trip back to Hammond we were only going 6 or 7 miles per hour. The waves were easy five-footers and there was near zero visibility – due to the heavy snow in the air and on the windshield. It took about an hour to get back to the marina."

"Today (Thursday) is another day with even colder temps. Wind speeds are currently 18mph from the northeast on the lakefront wind-o-meters, and that means bigger waves than yesterday. I think we will stick to the more protected waters of Calumet Park today. Yep, Wheelock is in town!"



**Above:** Doug Wheelock with a nice coating of snow on his coat. **Left:** Rods, reels, lures and fishing line were all encased in ice by the time they got back to the marina. **Below:** Success!





## McCormick Bags a Bison For the Record Book

As reported in the previous issue of *The Blade*, HOW Past President and current Board Member Troy McCormick was on a recent hunt in Missouri where he harvested a trophy-sized American bison. As it turns out, that bison was pretty special. Here is Troy's report:

"Every hunter and fisherman dreams of taking an animal that will make the record book. It might be the Boone & Crocket big game record book, the Pope and Young archery record book, or the IGFA fishing World Records. In my case, it was the Safari Club

International (SCI) record book."

"This past December I was fortunate enough to hunt American bison and harvested a 1,500+ pound trophy bull. My outfitter looked at it and said, 'That might be big enough to make the record book.' Big game animals taken internationally and on a managed ranch, or estate, in the U.S. are eligible for SCI. My hunting guide was an official SCI scorer and was able to put the tape on the bison's horns and calculate the total score of 55-2/8" by measuring the circumferences at the base and the lengths of both horns. Some animals have multiple measurements of circumference, inside width, outside spread, and of course with whitetail deer you have typical and non-typical antler shape and tines."



"My SCI Scorer told me that the minimum score for an American bison taken with a rifle was 54", so mine had exceeded the minimum score! I was elated. I went online to [www.safariclub.org](http://www.safariclub.org), filled out the official SCI membership application and mailed it with my check for \$65 (one year of membership with one record book entry included) and the

official score sheet from my hunting guide. About three weeks later I received my official certificate letting me know that my bison was Number 145 in the record book, a Bronze Medal trophy!"



*SCI Record Book of Animals and the  
SCI Record Book Committee proudly presents  
this certificate to:*

**Troy McCormick**

for taking a *American Bison*

with a *Rifle* measuring 55 2/8

On a hunt in *Missouri, Cook Station* on 12/18/2019

Measured by David Carter on 12/20/2019

Your entry currently ranks **Number 145**, a *Bronze Medal* trophy



## Farr is Always on the Lookout for Pheasants

HOW member Dean Farr is a devoted conservationist who often works with the Izaak Walton League and Pheasants Forever. He especially likes to promote farm conservation programs which can benefit hunting and fishing, and he loves to get kids involved whenever possible. Any conservation work is good, but Farr especially likes anything that helps pheasants.

“Three years ago on a Saturday afternoon I was returning to Indy from an Izaak Walton state meeting,” said Farr. “As I was driving east on IN 18 just east of Fowler, about 10 pheasants crossed the road in front of me. I was so surprised I stopped the car. All you could see for habitat was mowed roadside and drainage ditches. Just think, if the roadside was left un-mowed that might have been 20 pheasants – or more.”



“As we all know, any and all habitat can benefit wildlife and hunting. Help where you can.”



Wild pheasant photos by Tom Berg.

## Membership Changes and New Member Contact Info

The following names represent our newest HOW members. Please make a note of their contact information:

- Scott Cummings:** 5009 Lonesome Oak Trail, Fort Wayne, IN 46845, phone: 260-341-7083, Email: [scottcummings@frontier.com](mailto:scottcummings@frontier.com)
- Gene Hopkins:** 12516 W. Youth Camp Rd., Columbus, IN 47201, phone: 812-343-1019, Email: [gene@archerycollecting.com](mailto:gene@archerycollecting.com)
- Bryan McFadden:** P.O. Box 1219, Valparaiso, IN 46384, phone: 219-263-9283, Email: [urbandeerhunt@comcast.net](mailto:urbandeerhunt@comcast.net)
- Wyatt Manek:** 8418 Dukes Rd. NW, Depauw, IN 46845, phone: 812-595-4358, Email: [wmanek2004@gmail.com](mailto:wmanek2004@gmail.com)

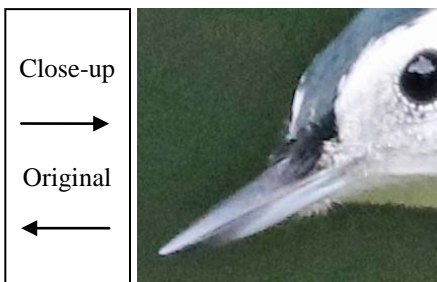
The following HOW members have updated contact information:

- Debbie Bowsher:** New email address: [dbowsher1959@gmail.com](mailto:dbowsher1959@gmail.com)
- Garry Burch:** New email address: [grbsouthpaw@gmail.com](mailto:grbsouthpaw@gmail.com)
- Don Cranfill:** New mailing address: 251 Meridian Ct., Pittsboro, IN 46167
- Alan Garbers:** New mailing address: 7875 W. Meadowlark Rd., Prescott, AZ 86305
- Bob Jennings:** New email address: [jenningsr500@gmail.com](mailto:jenningsr500@gmail.com)
- Will Keaton:** New mailing address: 6990 Vilas Rd., Spencer, IN 47460
- Vikki Trout:** New cell phone: 812-309-2077
- Scott Weaver:** New mailing address: 6219 N. Park Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46220

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 Environ-Metal – Hevi-Shot**

**The White-Breasted Nuthatch Loves To Hang Upside Down**



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 7 HOW members. Phil Seng, Mike Schoonveld, Troy McCormick, Bill Keaton, Mike Lunsford, John Maxwell and Jack Spaulding all identified it. When we drew a name at random for the

**Vexilar** SonarPhone, Phil Seng was the winner. Congrats, Phil! We’ll send the prize to you.

As you can see in the photo to the left, the mystery creature for this issue was a white-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*). These small, fast-moving birds are about the size of a sparrow, but their behavior is nothing like a sparrow. They move very quickly, visiting bird feeders and then immediately taking a single seed up into the tree branches to eat it. They cling to the sides of trees with ease, and actually seem to prefer to hang upside down. They usually move **DOWN** the tree trunk in their search for insects, while many other climbing birds usually travel **UP** the tree trunk.

As the name implies, white-breasted nuthatches have a bright white chest. Their head is also completely white, except for the dark black cap on top. They have a bluish-gray back and almost no neck. They eat insects most of the time, including all types of tree-dwelling insects (ants, beetles, caterpillars, spiders and moths), but they also love to eat seeds and nuts (sunflower seeds, peanuts, acorns etc). They are often attracted to backyard suet feeders, as well.

For this issue, our friends at **Environ-Metal** 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 box of premium HEVI METAL non-toxic shotshells and a cool Hevi-Shot hat. See below for more info on the prize and this issue’s nature 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 cricket, for example, go ahead and guess “house cricket” (of course, it’s not a cricket). 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, **Environ-Metal** (see [www.hevishot.com](http://www.hevishot.com)) has donated a box of HEVI METAL non-toxic shotshells (12 gauge, 3” shells, #2 shot size, 1¼ oz, 25-count) for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. The winner also gets a very nice embroidered Hevi-Shot camo hat. If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw a winner at random from the correct entries. All nature photos on this page by Tom Berg.



## HOW Supporting Member News

These pages are devoted to the loyal supporting members of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers. Brief descriptions of new products, award-winning products and press releases are listed here. HOW members interested in reading more can visit the supporting member websites or call or email the company contact for more information.

### Buck Knives Enhances Popular Abyss Series Fillet Knives

**Post Falls, ID** – March 19, 2020: Buck Knives, leader in sports cutlery, recently enhanced the popular Abyss fillet knives by adding a Cerakote® Ridgeway Blue premium coating to the 420HC steel blade.

The Abyss Series of fillet knives incorporates cutting edge technology into a comfortable, ergonomic handle. Utilizing Buck's Cerakote lab, the 6½" and 9½" blades are coated with a polymer-ceramic composite coating that provides superior protection against abrasion and corrosion. With the same flexible trailing point blade as the original Abyss fillets, the full tang construction allows you to make efficient and clean cuts. The textured handle is shaped for control and comfort while holding in multiple positions over long periods of time. Each



knife comes with an injection molded nylon sheath and is covered by Buck's famous Forever Warranty.

“Our fillet knives were designed with the input of pro anglers working alongside our Engineering Team. These updated fillet knives underwent rigorous testing to check the blades and handles for any signs of oxidation, specifically in saltwater conditions,” said Chris Brooks, Director of Brand Management of Buck Knives. “Our goal was to create a durable knife that could withstand the elements without sacrificing quality and the Abyss series fillet knives are the perfect addition for the tackle box.”

Each knife was proudly made in the USA. MSRP: \$70-\$80. For more information, visit Buck Knives online at [www.buckknives.com](http://www.buckknives.com).

**Media Contact:** Rachel Rogers, email: [RRogers@buckknives.com](mailto:RRogers@buckknives.com), phone: 208-262-0500.

#### **About Buck Knives:**

*Behind every Buck knife is over 100 years of experience and craftsmanship. The very best materials and state-of-the-art technology are used to create knives that meet the exacting demands expected of a high-quality knife. Buck stands behind every knife made with their famous Forever Warranty.*



## HOW Supporting Member News

### New WINCHESTER Air Rifles Model 12 Pump BB Gun

**Rogers, AR** – January 1, 2020: The classic Winchester Model 12 shotgun now has a little brother! The Winchester Air Rifles Model 12 Pump BB Gun makes the perfect first gun for any youth. Made to resemble Winchester's classic shotgun, the Model 12 Pump BB Gun allows mentors to teach gun safety and marksmanship skills with a BB gun that looks just like Dad's.

Designed and sized for today's youth, the Model 12 Pump BB Gun introduces the pump mechanics many kids will find in their first shotgun.

This new BB Gun produces 350 fps velocities and holds 250-plus BBs. It features a cross-bolt safety and a 14-inch length of pull. It shoots a single BB with each pump of the gun.

Check out the features:

- 12-round spring-loaded magazine
- 250+ BB reservoir
- Easy-load door on barrel
- 350fps velocity
- Single pump per shot
- 14-inch length of pull
- 34.25 total length
- Cross-bolt safety



The iconic Winchester Model 12 shotgun now has a cool little brother.

#### About WINCHESTER Air Rifles...

Winchester Air Rifles makes high-power, extremely accurate air guns for hunting, plinking and backyard target shooting. Winchester is a registered trademark used under a license by Daisy Outdoor Products.

**Media Contact:** Lawrence Taylor, Winchester Air Rifles and Daisy Outdoor Products, phone: 800-643-3458, email: [ltaylor@daisy.com](mailto:ltaylor@daisy.com), phone: 800-643-3458. For additional information, visit [www.daisy.com](http://www.daisy.com).



# HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Aquateko International - [www.aquateko.com](http://www.aquateko.com)  
B'n'M Pole Company - [www.bnmpoles.com](http://www.bnmpoles.com)  
Bass Pro Shops - [www.basspro.com](http://www.basspro.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)  
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)  
Daisy Outdoor Products - [www.daisy.com](http://www.daisy.com)  
Danner Boots - [www.danner.com](http://www.danner.com)  
Dardevle by Eppinger - [www.dardevle.com](http://www.dardevle.com)  
DJ Illinois River Valley Calls - [www.djcalls.com](http://www.djcalls.com)  
Ducks Unlimited - [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org)  
Egret Baits - [www.egretbaits.com](http://www.egretbaits.com)  
Environ-Metal, Inc. - [www.hevishot.com](http://www.hevishot.com)  
Falcon Guides - [www.falcon.com](http://www.falcon.com)  
Finn Tackle Company - [www.finnspoons.com](http://www.finnspoons.com)  
Fish Monkey Gloves - [www.fishmonkeygloves.com](http://www.fishmonkeygloves.com)  
Flying Fisherman - [www.flyingfisherman.com](http://www.flyingfisherman.com)  
G.Loomis - [www.gloomis.com](http://www.gloomis.com)  
Glacier Glove - [www.glacierglove.com](http://www.glacierglove.com)  
Grizzly Fishing - [www.grizzlyfishing.com](http://www.grizzlyfishing.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.HHAsports.com](http://www.HHAsports.com)  
Hoosier Trapper Supply - [www.hoosiertrappersupply.com](http://www.hoosiertrappersupply.com)  
Howard Leight Shooting Sports - [www.howardleight.com](http://www.howardleight.com)  
HT Enterprises - [www.htent.com](http://www.htent.com)  
Jackall Lures - [www.jackall-lures.com](http://www.jackall-lures.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)  
Lodge Manufacturing - [www.lodgemfg.com](http://www.lodgemfg.com)  
Mathews Archery - [www.mathewsinc.com](http://www.mathewsinc.com)  
Mossy Oak - [www.mossyoak.com](http://www.mossyoak.com)  
National Shooting Sports Foundation - [www.nssf.org](http://www.nssf.org)  
National Wild Turkey Federation - [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org)  
Norsemen Outdoors - [www.norsemenoutdoors.com](http://www.norsemenoutdoors.com)  
Nosler, Inc. - [www.nosler.com](http://www.nosler.com)  
Nothead Tackle - [www.notheadtackle.com](http://www.notheadtackle.com)  
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Off Shore Tackle - [www.offshoretackle.com](http://www.offshoretackle.com)  
Otis Technology - [www.otistec.com](http://www.otistec.com)  
Outdoor Sportsman Group - [www.outdoorsg.com](http://www.outdoorsg.com)  
PowerPro Lines - [www.powerpro.com](http://www.powerpro.com)  
Princeton University Press - [www.press.princeton.edu](http://www.press.princeton.edu)  
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)  
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)  
Seaguar Fishing Lines - [www.seaguar.com](http://www.seaguar.com)  
Shimano American Corp. - [www.shimano.com](http://www.shimano.com)  
Sierra Bullets - [www.sierrabullets.com](http://www.sierrabullets.com)  
Snag Proof Lures - [www.snagproof.com](http://www.snagproof.com)  
South Shore CVA - [www.southshorecva.com](http://www.southshorecva.com)  
Sporting Classics - [www.sportingclassics.com](http://www.sportingclassics.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)  
Toyota Motor Sales - [www.toyotanewsroom.com](http://www.toyotanewsroom.com)  
Traditions Media - [www.traditionsmedia.com](http://www.traditionsmedia.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)  
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

**POMA 2020 Annual Conference:**

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

Franklin, TN

June 16-18, 2020

**OWAA 2020 Annual Conference:**

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

Jay Peak Resort, VT

Postponed to 2021

**ICAST 2020 Show:**

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

Online “Virtual Trade Show”

July 14-17, 2020

**AGLOW 2020 Annual Conference:**

(<http://aglowinfo.org>)

Gaylord, MI

September 14-17, 2020

**SEOPA 2020 Annual Conference:**

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

Resort at Glade Springs, WV

October 7-10, 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*.