

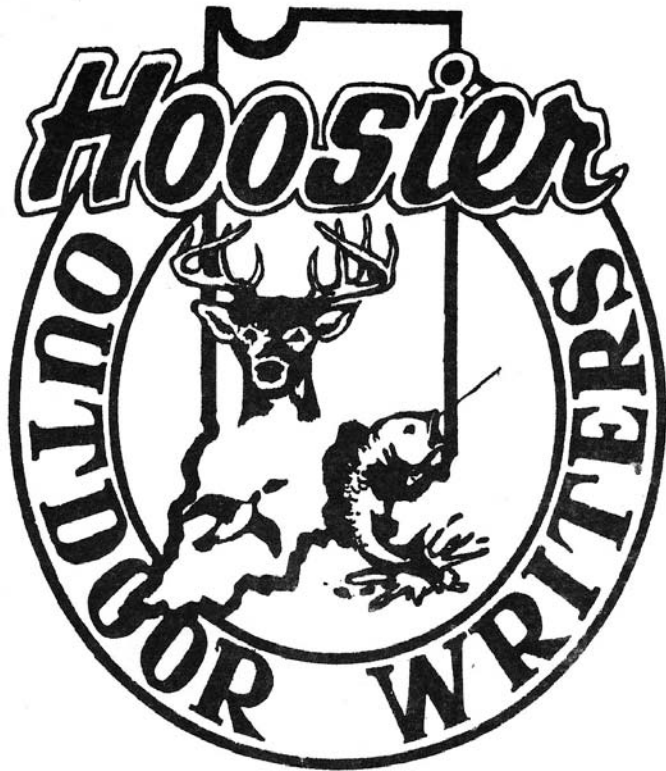
The Blade

May - June 2020

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Young Wood Duck Poses for the Camera", photo by Tom Berg



Hoosier Outdoor Writers

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

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On the cover: *A juvenile wood duck sits in silence on a floating log. A shallow pond covered in duckweed is in the background, and you can see some duckweed on this guy's bill and chest feathers. His golden-yellow eye ring contrasts nicely with his drab plumage. Photo by Tom Berg.*

President's Message

by Kenny Bayless (The Redneck Quaker)

As I sit on the back porch with three Labrador retrievers laying at my feet and the neighbor baling our hay, I'm trying to come up with some good news.

The local newspaper asked me to comment on the effects of the Coronavirus on the outdoor folks. I thought it was lucky that when the virus struck the only species around here being hunted was wild turkey. Turkey hunters are normally by themselves and away from other people anyway while hunting. If you were on a youth hunt, keeping your distance and not using the same turkey mouth call while setting in one place was certainly appropriate. There were over 14,000 turkeys reported harvested this year, so that provides a lot of outdoor time.



Fishing buddies can easily distance themselves while sitting on a creek bank, and although it might be harder in a boat, it would not be impossible. The outdoors person may be the least affected physically while being in the great outdoors.

Last, but not least, one of the most negative effects on the hunting world are all of the fundraising events (banquets) for numerous species that didn't take place. These events bring in vital funds needed to support habitat and conservation. Matt Underwood, National Wild Turkey Federation regional director of the lower half of Indiana told me that after the virus hit he felt fortunate to only lose seven of his 17 turkey banquets. The chapter from Clinton, IN was postponed along with others.

Steve Brewer from the Wabash Valley Quail Forever chapter told me we are going to have a chapter meeting on June 18th. It will be the first one since March. We were lucky that we had our banquet in November, before the virus hit home. We will be meeting outside at Paul Bridgewater's house to observe social distancing. It has been reported the Quail Forever and Pheasant Forever organizations lost over 200 banquets to the pandemic. The fine outdoorsmen from these groups put out food plots for the birds and other wildlife at no charge for anyone that donates the use of their land. Unfortunately, Steve Brewer says he hasn't had a request yet!

At the beginning of January, Troy McCormick and I were lucky enough to attend the annual Dallas Safari Club banquet. I've attended for the last 12 years and I can't put into words how awesome it is. The exhibit area holds display booths and extra exhibit wings as far as you can see. There are full-body taxidermy mounts of animal species from all over the world. Titans of the industry attend, also. Troy was all smiles as I introduced him to hunting and fishing legends like Jim Shockey, Jim West, Tom Miranda and Craig Boddington.

I had a layover in Rome for a day last September en route to South Africa and feel like I lucked-out by missing the virus by just a few months. The pope must have included me in a prayer. We toured the Vatican and it was awesome, but there were so many naked statues. The people in those days must have been awfully poor because evidently they couldn't afford clothes. The crowd was shoulder to shoulder while walking the streets, and once again I realize I was lucky this virus hit months later!

Folks, I encourage you to enjoy the outdoors and stay safe. And here are my parting words of wisdom for this column: If you are getting bored from all the isolation, ***drink stronger whisky and ride faster horses!***

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents and Memorial Section

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

**No new members for this issue.
See Member News Section
starting on page 18.**

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

Jack Alkire – HOW President 1979
Bill Beeman – Executive Director
Don Bickel
Ed Blann
Charlie Brown
Gary Carden
Jim “Moose” Carden – HOW President 1982-83
George Carey
John Case
Bill Church – HOW President 1972
Jack “Big Jake” Cooper
Mark Cottingham
Jerry Criss
Gary “Dox” Doxtater
Dick Forbes
Tom Glancy – HOW President 1977
Dale Griffith
Fred Heckman
Marty Jaranowski – HOW President 1996
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

Benefits of HOW Membership

Recently, someone asked why they should become a HOW member. They asked: "What benefits will HOW provide for me?" Listed below are a few of the benefits that come to mind right away:

- HOW was formed in 1969 to bring together individuals and groups with a shared interest in the conservation and wise use of Indiana's natural resources. Since most of our members are outdoor writers, the focus was Indiana's natural resources and reporting on the wise use and enjoyment of those resources. Hopefully, members can enjoy the camaraderie of working with and associating with each other. As a group of professionals, we help the friends and fight the foes of wisely conserved Indiana resources.
- HOW **membership card** and press credentials allow entry to outdoor shows and similar functions.
- HOW maintains a **website** (www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org) where members may read or download the current newsletter, talk via our Facebook page, read archived issues of the newsletter, or find a link to each of our Supporting Members' websites.
- HOW publishes a bi-monthly **full-color newsletter** (6 issues per year), and distributes it electronically. It is posted on the website for members to read or download and it is emailed as a PDF file. It includes information about our Annual Conference, Awards-In-Craft contests, Member News, Supporting Member press releases, photo contests and a calendar of upcoming events of interest to the membership. The newsletter also includes a page in each issue with the web addresses of every Supporting Member.
- HOW publishes a **Membership Directory** which lists every Individual member and every Supporting member. The Directory is available online on the HOW website.
- HOW **Supporting members** have complete access to our membership list so they can contact our writers, photographers, bloggers and broadcasters with new press releases and product info.
- HOW conducts an **Annual Conference** and all members are invited to attend (individuals and supporting members). This year, the conference was at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. The conference includes many seminars, guest speakers and other activities. We gather for a HOW Fun Shoot (usually sporting clays or skeet) on the Friday before the annual meeting. We also have our very popular Outdoor Products raffle at the conference, and all members and guests who participate have a chance of winning great outdoor products and prizes. On the Sunday following the meeting, we usually sponsor an outing featuring fishing, boating, hiking or some other activity (we didn't do it this year because of the Boat, Sport & Travel Show, but we will do it next year).
- HOW conducts an annual **Awards-in-Craft contest** for Individual members, including a Writing Contest, a Photography Contest and a Broadcast Contest. This contest recognizes the best writers, photographers & broadcasters in our group, and the winners typically receive cash prizes.
- HOW conducts a special "**Nature Photo**" contest in each issue of the newsletter for Individual members. A portion of a close-up photo of a creature that can be found in Indiana is shown, and the HOW member who guesses its identity can win a very nice prize. If more than one member gets the right answer, a winner is drawn at random from the pool of correct entries. Prizes range from \$100 gift cards to great outdoors products from our Supporting Members (like premium flyrods, top-quality binoculars, superior sunglasses, fishing and shooting equipment, etc).
- Meet like-minded people and make new friends – many of these friendships last a lifetime!

These are just some of the benefits of HOW membership. Your participation, camaraderie and involvement can result in so much more! Join HOW today or sponsor a new member!

The Opossum: Homely But Helpful!

by HOW Executive Director Tom Berg

The Opossum, or “possum”, is a very interesting animal. These mammals are North America’s only marsupial (a mammal with a pouch for carrying their young), and since they do not hibernate they are active all year long.

Possoms are nocturnal animals, so they are not often seen by most people. During the winter, they prefer to venture out at night to search for food when the temperature is above 20 degrees. But during prolonged cold snaps, they must look for food regardless of temperature. Luckily their thick, silvery-white fur keeps them nice and warm as they roam the countryside (and back yards).

These animals won’t win any beauty contests, though. They have a long snout and a mouth full of sharp teeth. Their ears are black and leathery, and their tails are scaly and naked (no thick fur). Their toes have sharp claws – except for the human-like opposable thumbs on their back feet which have no claw/nail at all.

Possoms may be ugly, but they are actually very beneficial animals. They help keep the environment clean by eating dead animals, bugs (including ticks), over-ripe fruit that has fallen from trees, and almost anything else they can find. They help gardeners by eating slugs, snails, burrowing moles and many insect pests in the garden. Since they eat ticks, they actually help prevent or at least slow the spread of Lyme disease, as well.

Few animals are cleaner than possums, too, as they regularly groom themselves. They are extremely resistant to diseases (like rabies), and they seem to be impervious to poisons, even poisonous snakebites!

The lowly opossum is one of Earth's oldest surviving mammals, and it has been around for millions of years. It’s not likely that they will disappear anytime soon, either. That’s good news for all of us!



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

For immediate release: May 13, 2020

DNR Seeks Volunteer Paddlers for Wildlife Monitoring

The DNR is asking paddlers to report their wildlife observations while paddling Indiana waterways from June 1 to July 31.

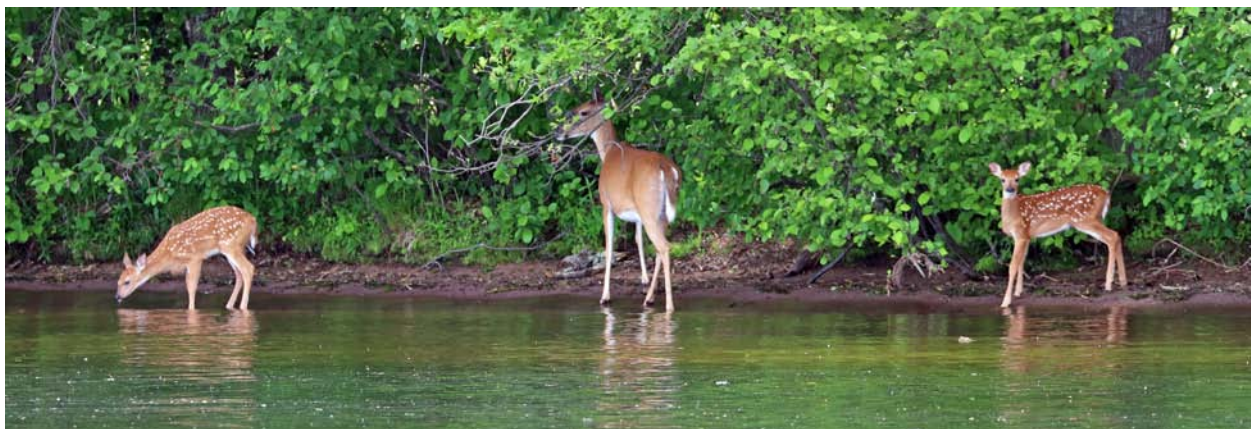
Paddling is a great way to enjoy Indiana's natural beauty, observe wildlife, and connect with nature, and DNR is hoping to collect more information about the wildlife that frequents Indiana's waterways. Hoosiers who paddle can collect information that will help Indiana manage wildlife for future generations.

The Indiana Paddlecraft Wildlife Index compiles wildlife observations from people who use canoes, kayaks, or other non-motorized paddlecraft around the Hoosier state. Volunteer paddlers can help by signing up to complete paddling trip postcards documenting the wildlife they observe while on the water.

The collected information will allow wildlife managers to estimate changes in key wildlife populations over time. With paddlers' help, DNR may also gain insight into new locations where these species live.

Those interested can learn more or sign up to volunteer by visiting on.IN.gov/Paddlecraftindex.

Media contact: Geriann Albers, furbearer biologist, DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife, phone: 812-320-5536, email: galbers@dnr.IN.gov. Mother and fawns photo below by Tom Berg.



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

For immediate release: May 27, 2020

Update on Summer Recreation Opportunities at DNR Properties

As campgrounds, inns, restaurants, park offices and nature centers reopen at Indiana State Parks, some other features that summer guests traditionally use at those and other DNR properties will open soon, while others will remain closed.

Rentable picnic shelters, recreation buildings and rally camps are tentatively scheduled to open on June 1 for groups of 100 or fewer people, with social distancing. Property offices have reopened to members of the public who want to purchase passes, permits and fishing licenses.

The DNR's public outdoor swimming pools will remain closed for the 2020 summer season due to limitations in the ability to practice social distancing on the confined space of pool decks. Locations of those closed pools include Mounds, Prophetstown, Turkey Run, McCormick's Creek, Spring Mill, Brown County, Versailles, Clifty Falls, O'Bannon Woods, Shakamak and Harmonie state parks, and the pool at Cagles Mill Lake (Lieber State Recreation Area [SRA]).

Even with pools closed there are many other places at DNR properties across the state to cool off on a hot day. Most beaches, which have adequate space for guests to practice social distancing on the sand and in grassy areas in most locations, opened Memorial Day weekend and are great places to enjoy the water. These are located at Pokagon, Potato Creek, Chain O'Lakes, Indiana Dunes, Ouabache, Lincoln, Whitewater Memorial and Summit Lake state parks, Cecil M. Harden, Mississinewa, Monroe, Patoka, Brookville and Hardy lakes and Deam Lake and Starve Hollow SRAs and Ferdinand State Forest. The beaches at Cagles Mill and Salamonie lakes will reopen when the currently high water returns to safe levels.

Kayaks, canoes and paddleboats provide an alternative option for water-based recreation. Many types of watercraft are available for rent at several park locations with lakes, including Pokagon State Park and Trine SRA, as well as Chain O'Lakes, Lincoln, Ouabache, Potato Creek, Shakamak, Spring Mill, Summit Lake, Versailles and Whitewater Memorial state parks, and at Cagles Mill Lake. Boat rentals are available at Ferdinand and Yellowwood state forests, and Deam Lake and Starve Hollow. Marinas at Brookville, Cagles Mill, Cecil M. Harden, Mississinewa, Monroe, Patoka and Salamonie lakes offer rental boats to explore the water.

For additional info about what is open or closed at DNR properties, visit on.IN.gov/dnrcovid19.

Media Contact: Ginger Murphy, Division of State Parks, phone: 317-232-4143, email: gmurphy@dnr.IN.gov.



Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

We have been asking HOW members to submit photos and reports about interesting or unusual birds that they have seen during their outdoor adventures. The sightings do not have to take place in Indiana; anywhere in the world is fair game. All photos on these pages were submitted by those reporting.

We hope this page will not only interest bird enthusiasts, but all HOW members who enjoy spending time in the great outdoors (i.e. everybody). You may just learn something new, too!

Report from Dave Hoffman:

HOW Board Member Dave Hoffman has been staying close to home because of Covid-19, but he keeps on the lookout for interesting or unusual birds. "Driving on a local county road this spring, I was surprised to spot a shorebird with long, bright-yellow legs wading in a flooded cornfield," he stated. He identified it as a species he had photographed just a few weeks earlier in Florida, the **Lesser Yellowlegs** (*Tringa favipes*). Visiting small ponds or lakes, as well as flooded grasslands or agricultural fields, the yellowlegs is frequently sighted in Indiana, especially during April or May. Many birds migrate in large flocks and congregate in a few major stopover sites. However, the yellowlegs travels in smaller groups and disperses to a wide variety of wetland habitats as it wings toward the north and northwestern Canadian provinces and Alaska where it breeds.



Sporting a long, thin bill, the graceful lesser yellowlegs (**above**) is often observed during the spring migration. The eastern towhee (**below left**) prefers forest edges, and usually forages for seeds and insects on the ground.



"Feeding on aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, this dainty-looking ground-nester can be hard to distinguish from the larger, Greater Yellowlegs, which is not even closely related. But, that's another story!"

A second bird encounter occurred while Hoffman was working in his yard at home. "I hadn't heard its call for several years," he said. "But, I immediately recognized its 'Drink your teeeeeee' song. Once known as the rufous-sided towhee, it was split into two species which evolved during the glacial period when the bird's range was separated, according to the Cornell Lab. The eastern component was renamed the **Eastern Towhee** (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*). "Incidentally, the word 'erythrophthalmus' translates as 'red eye,' but there are also 'white-eyed' eastern towhees which are typically found in the southeast. The dividing line between the eye-colors passes directly through the middle of Indiana, so you may see either one."

Preferring a habitat of dense undergrowth, the colorful towhee is more often heard than seen or photographed. Surprisingly, this relatively large, secretive bird is a member of the sparrow family, and it nests on or near the ground where it typically feeds. "It's definitely an interesting bird," added Hoffman.



Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors



Report from Bill Keaton:

HOW Legal Advisor Bill Keaton has been a serious bird-watcher, or birder, for decades. In fact, he was serious about feeding and watching birds long before it gained the popularity it enjoys today. Here is his birding report from this spring:

“This year we had a plethora of **Baltimore Orioles** (*Icterus galbula*) at my house,” Keaton said. “I have been feeding birds in the same location since 1976, and we have an abundance of birds (and a wide variety of birds, too) in every season of the year. For years I have been putting out a jelly feeder in the spring to attract orioles, also. This year was no exception.”

“I normally have a couple of pairs of Baltimore orioles that come to my feeders. However, this year we were inundated with orioles. I have no idea how many we had, but at one time I counted twelve orioles lined up on my bird feeder post waiting to feed on the jelly, and there were more in the trees. It has slowed down now, but at the peak the orioles were devouring a 30 ounce jar of grape jelly every single day!”

“Although we have mostly Baltimore orioles, we also have at least two pairs of **Orchard Orioles** (*Icterus galbula*). The female orchard orioles are bright yellow, while the males are darker and smaller than the Baltimore orioles.”

“Years ago, I gave fellow HOW member Mike Schoonveld a jelly feeder and turned him on to orioles. Mike has reported the same over-abundance of orioles at his house this year, also. He lives 2½ hours northwest of my home. Perhaps this is a sign that these beautiful birds with a very melodious song are on the rebound.”



A male Baltimore oriole (above) perches on a branch at Bill Keaton's property, waiting for an opportunity to eat some grape jelly. A male orchard oriole (below left) and a female orchard oriole (below right) also visited Keaton's yard this spring.





Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

Another report from Bill Keaton:

HOW Legal Advisor Bill Keaton may also be the Warbler Whisperer. Check out his recent report:

“Today (May 4), we went to Bishop Hill near Madison, IN to mow the grass,” he said. “While I was unloading the car, a **Yellow Warbler** (*Setophaga petechia*) apparently flew into the house through the open door. It was surprisingly tame.”



“When it landed where I could reach it, I slowly walked up to it. I carefully reached up and took it in my hand, and it was very calm. I took it outside and opened my hand, but it didn’t fly. After sitting there for about 30 seconds, it finally flew away.”

“Stupid me didn’t take a picture,” exclaimed Keaton.

Editor’s Note:

Luckily, I have some yellow warbler photos in my photo files. So even though Bill did not get a photo of his individual yellow warbler, here is a representative photo of a typical male yellow warbler (shown at left).

Photo by Tom Berg.

Report from Mike Lunsford:

HOW Region 3 Board Member Mike Lunsford enjoys watching and photographing birds, and he is often able to do it right in his own back yard. One of his favorite bird species, especially at this time of year, is the **Baltimore Oriole** (*Icterus galbula*). “It was an oriole spring,” said Lunsford. “Fruit and nectar-loving orioles – both Orchard and Baltimore varieties – made their way through Indiana this spring in such big numbers that some bird enthusiasts wondered if Covid19 travel restrictions and ‘stay-in-place’ orders were allowing the birds more freedom and space.”



Lunsford stated that the female Baltimore oriole shown here (at right) landed in a tulip poplar tree before moving closer to one of his oriole feeders. The bird is perched nonchalantly on the feeder pole, patiently waiting for her turn at the feeder. Lunsford and Keaton (see previous page) both enjoyed the orioles this spring!

Mike Lunsford also reported that he intends to devote an upcoming column in the Terre Haute Tribune-Star to these colorful birds later in June. It should be great!

Did you take a cool bird photo while exploring afield recently?

Did you see the bird at home? While traveling? In a local park?

HOW members are encouraged to send their interesting bird photos to newsletter editor and bird enthusiast Tom Berg (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.

The Greater Gift

by Joe Jansen

Working as a writer and editor is about shaping words into a story, for sure. But sometimes the words you place on the page are secondary to the places you go to find your story. The page count doesn't count as much as the friendships you make along the way.

I was privileged recently to work as the editor for Dr. Mel Stewart Hankla's new book, *Into the Bluegrass: Art and Artistry of Kentucky's Historic Icons* (www.IntoTheBluegrass.net). *Into the Bluegrass* explores early Kentucky's artistic culture and weaves in the iconic Kentucky longrifle: the frontier flintlock that itself became an object of artistic expression. Mel's book highlighted the longrifle as the tool that enabled Kentucky's early pioneers to survive, prosper, and eventually develop their distinctive frontier art forms, and thus helped weave together Kentucky's cultural fabric.



A quartet of talent, each with an important part to play in the production of the new book, *Into the Bluegrass: Art and Artistry of Kentucky's Historic Icons*. Pictured from left to right: Artist David Wright, author Dr. Mel Hankla, editor Joe Jansen, and Jason Gatliff, the publisher of Muzzleloader Magazine. Photo courtesy of Joe Jansen.

In the book's introduction, Dr. Richard Taylor, former Poet Laureate of Kentucky, likened this theme to the words of John Adams to his wife Abigail in 1780, paraphrased as, "We study arms and war so that our children and grandchildren can study art and poetry and tapestry."

The pleasure of contributing to such a substantial work of art and history paled, though, against the friendships that came out of the project. In 2018, I'd become friends with David Wright, an accomplished and award-winning painter of American frontier art (www.davidwrightart.com). That friendship had led to an invitation to join in several 1820s-era rendezvous of the American Mountain Men Association, and a chance to write a story about "an outsider's view"

(continued next page)

for their AMM journal, The Tomahawk & Long Rifle.

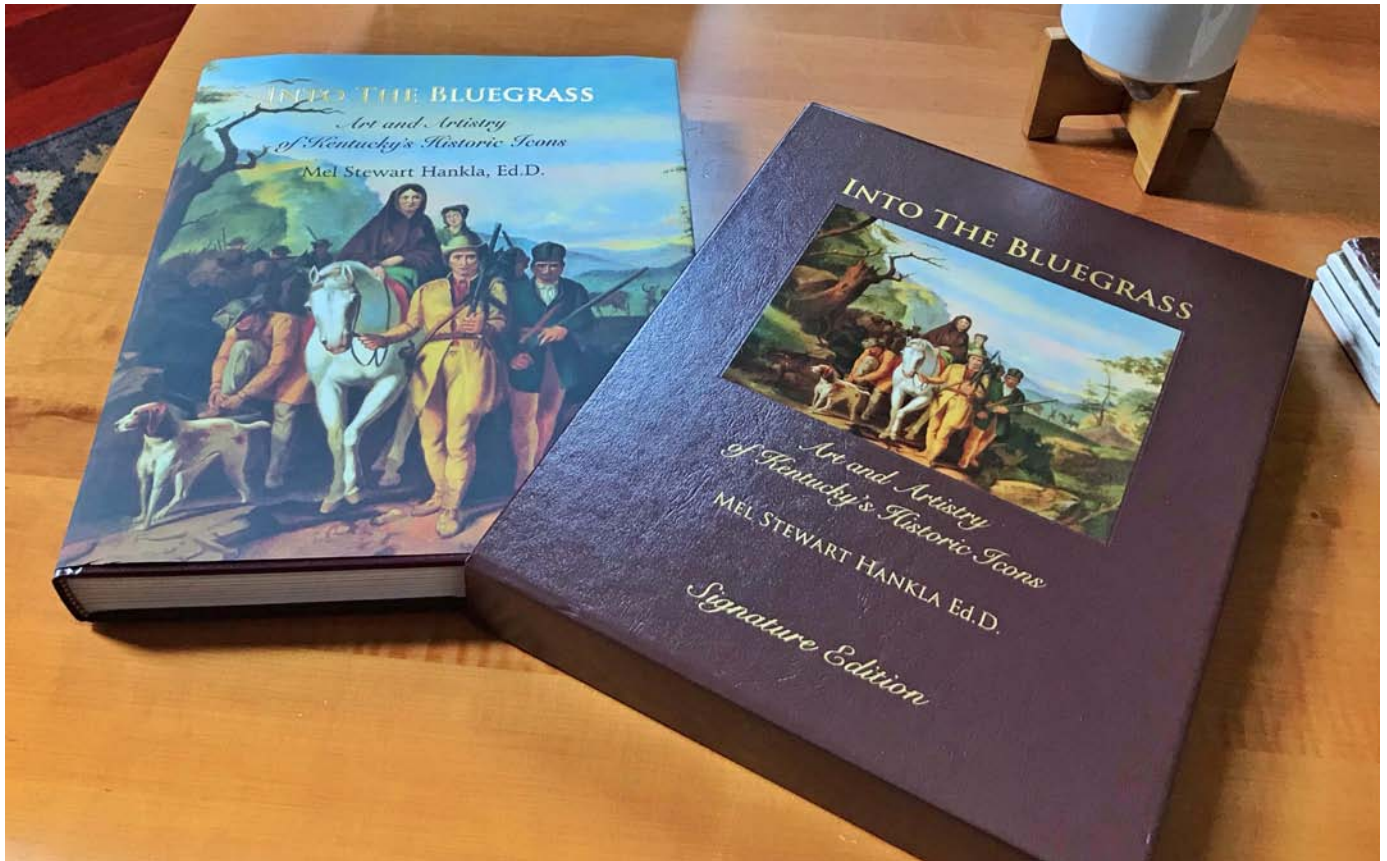
David had been long-time friends with Dr. Mel Hankla, a Kentucky historian, collector, and broker of historical frontier arms and artifacts (www.americanhistoricservices.com). The two had previously collaborated in producing American Traditions Magazine, the journal of the Contemporary Longrifle Association. When Mel began to pull his book together in the fall of 2019, David agreed to consult on the book's art design, partnering with Jason Gatliff, the publisher of Muzzleloader Magazine (www.historicalenterprises.com).

In reviewing Mel's text, David suggested: "Your writing is good. But if you want it to look professional, you need to talk to a friend of mine." The trio brought me in, and we made a quartet: Mel the author, David and Jason on design and layout, and myself working Mel's text to make it shine.

Through the collaboration that happens between author and editor, Mel and I got to know each other and developed a mutual respect and appreciation for each other's skills (likewise with Jason and David). By the end of the project, that mutual regard had become plain old friendship.

The book ended up looking and reading great. At its launch at an early-2020 event hosted by The Bluegrass Trust for Historic Preservation in Lexington, the book was well-received, with many pre-orders and on-site sales.

Even though a number of new opportunities came out of the editorial work on *Into the Bluegrass* (an invitation to quote recurring magazine editorial work, and several new writing and editing projects), I count the greater gift as the new friendships with Mel and Jason, and a deepening comradeship with David, an artist whose work I've long admired.



Trolling for Lunger Crappie

by Bryan McFadden

The coronavirus lockdown was coming to an end and my enthusiasm to go searching for spawning panfish was intensifying. My target was bluegill, as usual, but I was willing to reel in anything that would get stuck on my jig. I am not a big bobber fisherman as I prefer to tie on a 1/32 oz fluorescent green jig with a sparkly rooster tail and tip it with a wax worm. Casting to shore and bouncing the bottom as you slowly reel to the boat is the technique I use.

The water temperature was right, and the weather had been fair for a couple days which led me to believe the bluegill would be coming to the beds. It is always possible to catch other species like largemouth bass and crappie, but usually if the bluegills are biting and on the beds, they are the dominant species in the area where I'm tossing my jig.

As I worked the shoreline looking for bluegill beds in the sand, I caught a few fish but not like usual spawning activity I was accustomed to. The bluegill spawning colonies look like little moon craters on the bottom, so they are pretty easy to see. I continued to work the shoreline but worked the water a little deeper and started to catch fish. I realized they were not quite on the beds yet.

Though the bluegills had not started the spawning, I had caught several species within the first couple hours including bluegill, redear, crappie and largemouth bass. I was working a block wall when a walleye hit. I was surprised the fifteen-inch walleye was in just five feet of water, but I was happy with the catch as he was above the size limit and would be a good eater.

Then I caught another walleye and put it in the cooler, too. I had now caught five species on the same jig. With the morning getting warmer and the good fishing hours coming to an end, I decided to mix it up a bit and change my jig to a small blue and white Rapala minnow with red hooks and red lip. Since I was back in a small cove of the lake where there was a no wake zone, I decided to troll for a few more walleye on my way out to the main body of the lake.

The trolling began as I sipped a cold beverage. I was happy for my walleye and was slowly headed back to camp. The Rapala was wiggling between twelve and fifteen feet of water as I could see the action on the tip of my rod. As I trolled past a weedy outcropping, my rod suddenly bent towards the water. I immediately thought it had to be weeds but as I picked up the rod, I could feel movement and knew it was a fish.

I reeled and was imagining this large walleye to add to my stock. When the fish surfaced at the boat, to my surprise it was a monster crappie. I could not believe the size of it as I had never caught a crappie that big nor had I ever had



a crappie hit a trolled Rapala. I grabbed her by the lip and sat her down on the cooler for a measurement: fifteen inches and full of eggs. The color was amazing on this fish – it was picture perfect.

This fish was not destined to become my meal, though. I took a couple pictures and sent her back to become a true lunger and lay those eggs. I hope to see that big beautiful girl again!

The IWLA Clean Water Challenge

by Jay Butler

I am a member of the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA), and many members are like me – extremely interested in monitoring the water of our streams. However, we just cannot see themselves down in a creek chasing critters and taking water samples. That decision might be based on any number of very legitimate reasons. Bad back? Senior citizen? Just not their thing? I hear ya! I took the IWLA Clean Water Challenge training, and my back told me in no uncertain terms, “Nope, not for you!” This program is well thought out and has two segments: 1) Chemical monitoring and 2) Invertebrate monitoring. Both are important and have always been introduced as the right and left legs of the process and take several hours to complete for each sampling (5 or 6 hours).

That is a shame, because I believe in the Clean Water Challenge and wanted to be a part of it. But it just was not in the cards. Until now! I have had a kit for more than a year and a half, and every time I walked past it in the garage, it would call out to me.

With the recent roll back of EPA clean water rules, testing our streams is more critical than ever. Right now, even with the rules that have been in place, we know that only 31% of our streams are tested, and of those that are tested, 56% of those tested are polluted. With this being our best-case scenario, think what it will become with little or no testing! Think of the impact on swimming, boating, and fishing, not to mention our watersheds which are the source of our drinking water.

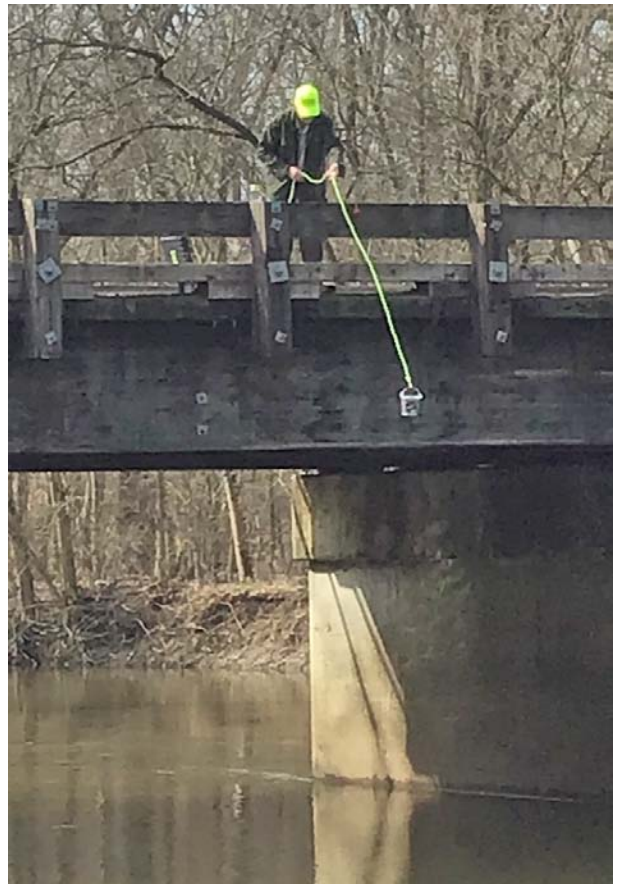
At this year’s mid-winter National Directors meeting of the IWLA, a staff member was demonstrating how easy it is to do the chemical side of the program and I got to thinking: “Why couldn’t I do the chemical testing by drawing a sample from the center of a bridge? Think about it. There are highway bridges, pedestrian bridges, hiking bridges and bicycle bridges everywhere.

I sent a proposal along with a couple of photos to the national staff of the Izaak Walton League. My proposal was that I visit several bridges and draw samples in mason jars and take them home to test all at one time. After several emails and phone conversations, they agreed to look into it. They came back with “It is doable, but you need to do two things while at the stream. First, take the water temperature reading immediately after the draw, and then fill the mason jar all the way to the lip of the jar. That is to trap the oxygen in the water. The temperature reading is used in making the calculation of the oxygen.” Bingo, I was in business.

Basically, the bridge chemical monitoring plan breaks down into these segments:

- a. Mapping the bridge locations.
- b. Draw the sample, take the temperature, log this info on the CWC work sheet.
- c. Jump back in (well, maybe walk) to the car and drive to the next bridge site.
- d. Repeat steps a. & b. again at several more locations.
- e. Back home, set up your chem lab, test and record all your sample readings.
- f. Enter your data into the IWLA Clean Water Hub.

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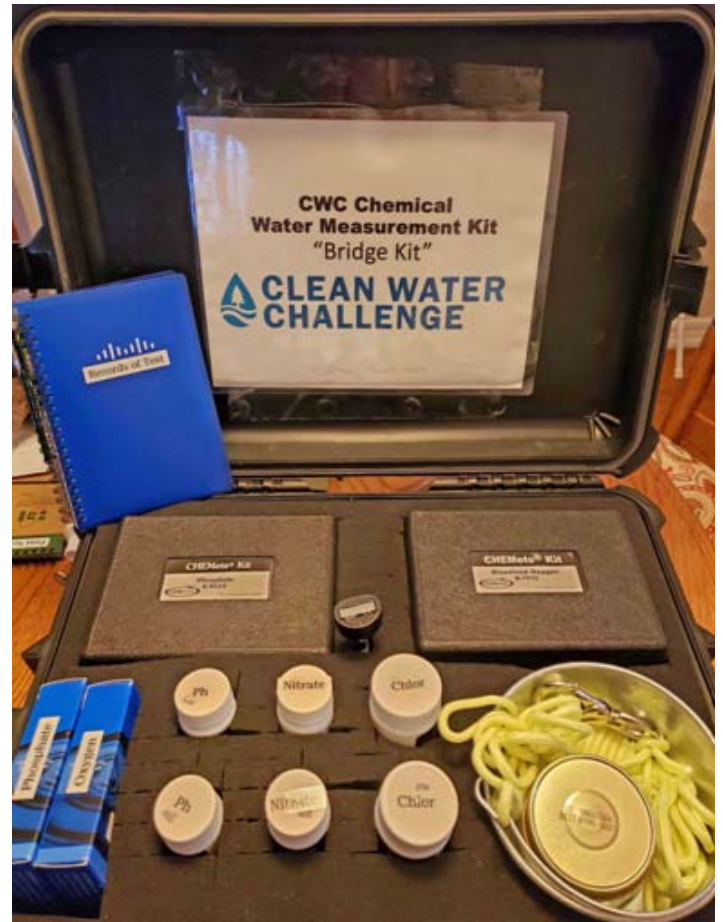
The tests that I do include:

- 1) Water temperature
- 2) Dissolved oxygen and % oxygen saturation.
- 3) pH
- 4) Chloride (the same thing you do with the winter road salt tests).
- 5) Nitrate
- 6) Phosphate

In addition, I bought a neat 2-quart galvanized bucket at Rural King along with a dozen ½ pint mason jars, a digital thermometer from Harbor Freight, along with 25 feet of rope. Oh, and I bought a nifty case for carrying the samples instead of the 5-gallon bucket that I started with. Gotta look cool to any passers-by while you are doing your sample draw, right?

But a 50-cal. ammunition box works just as well.

You can get in the game at any level of testing that you are comfortable with. The nitrate and pH tests are the same ones that you do with your swimming pool, spa, or saltwater aquarium. I do the whole series, but others suggest that if you want to just do a trial, you might start out just doing the nitrate test. That nitrate kit is under \$10.00 on Amazon or can be purchased at Lowe's, Walmart, or most any other box store.



When I was in the planning stage, I thought I'd sign on a crew of half a dozen chapter volunteer monitors, but soon found that I could stop at a bridge, draw a pail of water, pour it into a ½ pint mason jar, take the temperature, log the sample, and be on my way to the next bridge site within 20 minutes. I can easily drive around, enjoying the countryside, take my 5 or 6 different samples and be back home before noon.

I also soon discovered that many of the rural bridges are galvanized culverts, with concrete abutments and rails at the road surface. Why am I telling you this? Well these old bones will not let me jump the rail, walk out onto the culvert section so that I can dip straight down. This was solved by my finding one senior volunteer, but younger than me (which seems to be everyone) and delegating the culvert bridges to him.

Ingenuity is all it takes. That and a desire to do something worthwhile in the name of conservation. This was important to me, because I joined Izaak Walton as a sports shooter, and while this is a conservation project on the wild game side of our pledge, it was not the traditional things that I write about as editor of the Hoosier Waltonian.

I have thirty sites filed on the CWC hub and have test results logged on nine of them to date. The latest issue of Outdoor America, the magazine of IWLA, carried a two-page article on my process, and it has been adopted nationally within the Izaak Walton League.

So, my friends, you too can be a clean water monitor, regardless of your age, your infirmities, or your level of wealth to buy the materials. You do not need to be an Izaak Walton member, either. For a list of materials or to chat about the process, call me on my cell 260-341-5233 or email me at jaybutler1940@gmail.com.

***Editor's note:** Jay Butler serves on the board of directors of the Fort Wayne Chapter, the Indiana Division, and the National Boards of the Izaak Walton League of America. He has been a HOW member since March of 2019.*

Check Out the New Column for *The Blade*: Ask the Experts!

Greetings fellow HOW members! Long-time HOW member (and past president) Jack Spaulding recently submitted a suggestion about creating a new segment in the newsletter called “Ask the Experts!” On this page, HOW members can ask a question about any outdoors topic. Hopefully, one of the experts within HOW will have the answer. Our members are a wealth of knowledge of all things outdoors, and if we added-up all the years of outdoor wisdom contained in our group, the number would certainly be over 1000 years-worth of knowledge! That’s pretty impressive.

So, do you want to know how to skin a muskrat? Or maybe you want to know the best way to attract pileated woodpeckers to your backyard bird feeders. Are you curious about how to catch live minnows or live crayfish for fishing bait? What about skinning a big snapping turtle for the table?

Jack Spaulding decided to start it all off with a question about professionally cleaned yellow perch:

Dear fish cleaning experts (i.e. Mike Schoonveld, Doug Sikora, John Martino, and others):

I’ve noticed yellow perch cleaned by professional fish cleaning stations on the Great Lakes produce a pair of scaled, boneless fillets held together by the belly meat. Can anyone explain this method of fish cleaning to me? It’s a mystery down here in Moscow, Indiana!

Signed... Stumped in the sticks! LOL.

Jack Spaulding

So all of you fish cleaning experts out there: Can you answer this questions about filleting and scaling fish in this fashion? If so, pass along the info to HOW Newsletter Editor Tom Berg at thomas.berg@comcast.net. We will print the answer in the next issue. In the meantime, please think of other questions you would like to “Ask the Experts”. We will choose one question and print it in the next issue as well.



HOW Member News

HOW Members Enjoy the 2020 Spring Turkey Season

Josh Lantz (Three Oaks, MI)

The following report is from avid turkey hunter and HOW past president Josh Lantz:

“I arrived to a field full of birds during my afternoon hunt on April 28,” he said. “A bunch of hens dragged five toms into the CRP at about 2:00pm. I lost track of them in the tall grass and brush until two of them stuck their heads up about 200 yards out at 5:30pm.”

“I cutt and yelped a little at them, and to my surprise, they responded just how I’d hoped they would. I worked them in on a string and filled my Indiana tag!”

“The bird I shot appeared to be somewhat small while it was laying on the ground, but he was much heavier than I expected when I picked him up and put him over my shoulder. Back at the house, he actually weighed just under 22 pounds.”



Josh Lantz (above) smiles after harvesting this nice Indiana wild turkey in late-April. **John Martino** (left) poses with his fine Hoosier gobbler. Photos courtesy of each successful hunter.



“His beard and spurs were spectacularly average for these parts, but my buddy Mark Smith pointed out how short the gobbler’s tail feathers were – which is probably why he looked so small up close on the ground. Interestingly, his feet were freakishly small, too. All in all a cool bird and exciting afternoon. I’m so grateful to have such a beautiful place to hunt!”

John Martino (Kokomo, IN)

Here is a short report from long-time turkey hunter and HOW past president John Martino:

“It was really a fairly simple hunt this year,” recalled Martino. “Two toms came out about 400 yards from where I was sitting. I gave a couple yelps then some soft purrs as they came closer and eventually they worked along the edge of the woods right to me. Success!”

2020 Spring Turkey Season Continued

Vikki Trout (Holland, IN)

Here is a note from HOW member and serious turkey hunter Vikki Trout:

“Opening day of turkey season was a most unusual day for me,” Trout recalled. “I discovered two nice longbeards just before the season came in, so I thought this would be the year I might savor success on opening day. How wrong I was. I never heard or saw a turkey that day and headed for home at sunset scratching my head.”

“Since I have a 54-minute drive each way, there was plenty of time for me to ponder,” she continued. “The weather and sunrise was beautiful, the whippoorwills were singing at the break of day and I stood silently in awe of my surroundings. Then, just when you think at any moment a gobbler will speak up, I snapped back to reality and heard nothing except crows hollering. Why were the gobblers silent?”

“For the next few days, I tried every trick I knew. Then I pulled out my secret weapon: Avian decoys. Thinking if a gobbler was anywhere around, he would surely hear my calls, see the beautiful “girls,” and come right in. The decoys were a success! They caused the problem to show themselves. I quickly had seven jakes come running as hard as they could to my decoys.”

“In an attempt to convince the jakes there was danger close-by, I sounded the alarm (known as a putt), but they were not interested in leaving. Instead, they continued attacking my decoys. One of them even jumped on top of an upside down decoy that the other bullies had knocked over, and proceeded to peck it. I thought for a moment he was going to impale himself. I could not take it any longer and ran out into the food plot. I had jakes go airborne in every direction.”

“The next day I decided the decoys would stay in their bags. Believe it or not, here came the jakes again. They did their absolute best to find me and when they were within 20 yards, I jumped up ran out in the food plot yelling at them and once again sent them flying in every direction.”

“I feared my season was going to end without a turkey. Luckily for me, though, the jakes had decided the risk outweighed the benefit and they disappeared. I didn’t know where they went, but I knew for sure they left the area. I left the decoys home the remainder of the season.”

“Then my longbeards returned. Instead of using decoys, I went to the highest point on my land and called. After hearing nothing, I worked my way through the woods and down to the food plots. At one-hour intervals, I let out some gentle yelps and clucks, keeping my trusted Benelli perched on my knees.”

“It was around 11:00am when I was shocked to see two longbeards walking towards me. They were stretching their necks and heads and not making a sound. Typically, I would think they were stretching to find the hen, but these guys seemed scared. I believe they were looking for the jakes.”



Veteran hunter Vikki Trout carries her hard-won prize.

“The toms separated from each other, the Benelli boomed, and one went running away. The other one was mine!”

2020 Spring Turkey Season Continued



Bill Keaton (Arlington, IN)

HOW Legal Advisor and diehard turkey hunter Bill Keaton had an interesting season this spring, as well. Here is his report:

“I was looking forward to the 2020 turkey season with optimistic anticipation,” said Keaton. “For weeks I had seen two to three mature toms on the hilltop behind our Jefferson County home. We had also seen a nice tom across the road on a hill about 500 yards away about every day. There were usually hens with the toms at both places.”

“About four weeks before opening day, I set up a ground blind 250 yards behind our house along the ridge top. I put it up along the edge of some cedars where I could see turkeys coming from three directions. The blind didn’t seem to have any effect on the turkeys, because they kept showing up about every morning that I was there. I had also mowed the tall grass when I set the blind to improve my visibility and to give the turkeys a fresh scratching place, and they had been using that area in front of my blind heavily.”

“Opening day greeted me with great weather. I was out in the blind before first light, anxiously anticipating an easy kill. The morning air was full of gobblers from three different directions; but this morning, none were close. I used my trusty 48-year-old Lynch box call because it was the loudest call I own. Every time I called, I got multiple answers, but nothing came closer. As the day wore on, I saw several hens and deer, but no toms. Needless to say, I was frustrated and disappointed. I finally called it a day at about 6:00pm.”

“Thursday, the second day of the season was awful. We had steady rain most of the day, and the forecast was gloomy. I didn’t hunt at all on Thursday. When I got up on Friday morning, it was still raining lightly, but it was predicted to stop by midmorning. The rain finally ceased about 10:00am, so I packed a lunch and headed to my blind. There was absolutely no gobbling on Friday, so I was just hoping the toms that had been there all spring would show up. I hunted until 6:00pm again, but only saw hens and deer again. Nothing answered my calling.”

“I had to leave on Saturday morning, so I was in the house packing and cleaning up. At 9:00am I looked out the front window and saw a tom with a hen on the hill across the road. When I looked again in five minutes, there were two toms and a hen. As I watched, the new tom tried to approach the pair, but the home tom quickly went after him. For fun, I decided to raise a window and try calling with my Lynch box call. To my surprise, the new tom turned in my direction and fanned. As I continued to call, he very slowly started strutting in my direction in full fan. I still wasn’t getting my hopes up because I had to call him a very long distance to get him in range.”

“As I continued to call, he kept slowly working closer to me. At 150 yards I switched to a slate call. It was much softer and has always worked well for me. When he finally got to the road, he didn’t come across like I expected. Instead, he continued strutting and slowly walking up the road. After 50 yards on the road he came to our open gate and driveway where he turned in and headed for the tall grass outside the yard. I immediately ran to the back of the house and opened a window along the side yard. I retrieved my shotgun and slipped a 3½ inch magnum shell into the barrel and closed the action. I sat on the floor very quietly with my gun barrel resting on the bottom window frame. I saw him go into the tall grass outside the mowed yard, and I lost sight of him.”

“I waited a couple of minutes and then clucked on my slate call a couple of times. He quickly stuck his head up out of the tall grass about 25 yards out. I hurriedly put my Bushnell red dot on his head. BOOM! I was in such a bad shooting position that the 3½ inch mag about put me on the floor. When I recovered and looked out, there he was on the ground just doing his last twitches. Finally! Success in the most unconventional turkey hunt I have ever had. He weighed 22½ pounds, had a 10½ inch beard and 1¼ inch spurs. A true limb hanger.”

2020 Spring Turkey Season Continued

Rick Bramwell (Pendleton, IN)

Current HOW board member Rick Bramwell loves hunting as much as he loves fishing, and that's saying something. Here is his turkey season report from this spring:

"Patience is a virtue of which I'm in short supply," quipped Bramwell. "My eagerness to move and change helps me catch more fish but hurts when it comes to hunting wary game like deer and wild turkey. That being said, I have learned to take advantage of another's propensity to stay put."

"My friend Ray Novak's nickname is *Job*. We have hunted wild turkey together in southern Indiana for years. Although I am over 20-years his senior, I am his understudy."

"Our game plan is to get in the woods long before first light and use an owl hoot to elicit a response gobble from a roosting tom. On opening morning this year, we had reason to believe this might not work. Just after dark on the previous evening, two barred owls began calling. The area turkeys would be quite used to the owls, and probably would not give a gobble the next morning."

"So, it was. With no tom to set up on, we parked our short-legged turkey chairs in a locust stand that ran parallel to a mowed powerline right-of-way. The morning was cold and so was my head. I did not have a camo hoodie. Ray would have frowned on me wearing a blue one. I held out for a little over two hours, but I was shivering and needed to use the bathroom. Besides, I had another gobbler waiting at my car – a Yeti with hot coffee."

"Ray left with me. I suggested we go check and out the horse pasture. He was in agreement until we came to a dusting spot on a downhill slope. 'Woah, look at this. I'm watching this spot the rest of the day,' he said. Five different places were bowled where the turkeys were working dust into their feathers to ward off parasites."

"My drink was still hot, and with business taken care of, I sat at the pasture edge for about an hour. From there to lunch and then to the deep woods. At about 10:30am my phone started lighting up. Ray saw two hens, then three jakes (year old). One young tom and then another mounted the fake Dave Smith's Mating Hen Decoy."

"After a while, the three jakes ran off when four more arrived. Soon, two of the gobblers began fighting. They locked beaks and twisted their necks like a pretzel. My well-camouflaged buddy was a mere six feet away. Novak adorns himself in a Hot Shot 3D Leafy Suit of a Mossy Oak Bottomland design."

"While my friend was videoing some fantastic live turkey action, I was killing ticks with my thumbnail. I ended the day without seeing a turkey. Ray spent 10 hours in one spot and saw nine."

"The next morning was to be much different than the first, with a 90 percent chance of rain. Daylight found us in separate ground blinds about 15-yards apart. Sweet purrs were coming from the other blind made by skilled hands on a slate call. Ray set two decoys in front of my blind to make sure his old Babe Ruth coach got the first bird."

"It was pouring rain and a miserable day, for sure. A lone hen fed and clicked around our decoys and left. All was calm, so I dozed off until my phone vibrated. 'Rick, four turkeys just entered the field about 120-yards downhill,' he texted. Quickly, I picked them up out of my side window."

"As they closed in on our decoys, I let Ray know when the lead gobbler was in front of me. I whispered, 'At the count of five I'm going to shoot.' His shot quickly followed mine. In all the years hunting together, this was our first double."



Rick Bramwell shoulders his turkey.

2020 Spring Turkey Season Continued

Joe Martino (Kokomo, IN)

HOW member and serious turkey hunter Joe Martino and his son Nicholas had a successful turkey season this spring. Here is Joe's report:

"Nicholas and I were both lucky and got nice gobblers again this spring," said the elder Martino. "I doubled-up for the second year in a row with a good friend on opening day, and Nick had to hunt a little harder this year for his bird. After close encounters (and a miss or two!) each day he hunted, he finally found success by stalking the bottom of a steep, nasty ditch for an hour to get within



range of his gobbler. Luckily, he made that shot count. Even though he got soaking wet, he did not let it deter him from getting that bird!" Joe Martino is shown **above left**, and Nicholas Martino shown **above right**.

Gene Clifford (Valparaiso, IN)

HOW member and long-time turkey hunter Gene Clifford is still getting after those spring gobblers, even at the wise and mature age of 83. Here is what he had to say:

"This first photo (**at right**) was taken on opening day of the season," reported Clifford. "The only thing I saw all day was this hen, but she came to within 10 yards of the log blind I was sitting in. The great thing about these log blinds is they stay out there at the edge of the field all year long and the birds are very used to them being there." Note: You can see his boots at the bottom of the picture.

"On the third day of the season, I was watching a tom that was sticking close to five or six hens. I never thought I would get him away from them, but the hens did him in by coming to visit my two hen decoys. Luckily for me, he was dumb enough to follow them to within gun range."



"I was happy to harvest this bird.

The only photo I got of him is this one (**at left**) on the tailgate of my truck. He weighed a very respectable 22 pounds."



2020 Spring Turkey Season Continued

Brandon Butler (Fayette, MO)

HOW past president Brandon Butler recently completed the Grand Slam of turkey hunting. Read on!

“Hunting wild turkeys has become an obsession of mine,” remarked Butler. “I think part of it has to do with the fact that there were no turkeys in northern Indiana while I was growing up. Pursuing them is something that came to me a little later in life. The challenge became addictive. Now, there are few things I’d rather do.”

“Last month, I notched a major milestone in the life of a turkey hunter when I completed my Grand Slam. The National Wild Turkey Federation defines the Grand Slam as taking all four United States subspecies. These include the Eastern, Osceola, Rio Grande and Merriam’s. I have also taken an Ocellated in the Yucatan Peninsula, leaving only a northern Mexico Gould’s to go for a World Slam. I enjoy the travel aspect of hunting as much as anything, and the four hunts I recall from completing my Grand Slam are the true trophies.”

Eastern

“At 5:30 a.m. on the second day of Missouri’s 2014 season, I was standing in water up to my ankles at the edge of the Big Piney River. With my shotgun slung securely over my shoulder, I held a bag of decoys in my left hand and a walking stick in my right. Slowly, I eased out into the chest deep current. I was thankful to reach the other side safe and sound.”



Brandon Butler with his quest-ending Osceola turkey.

“As the sun peaked over the horizon, I’d only heard two gobbles. Both were a mile off. My hopes were diminished. After an hour of sitting still, I had to move. I clawed my way up the bluff behind me. Once I reached the top, and had caught my breath, I slowly eased down a logging road, occasionally calling. Finally, a gobbler sounded off. Of course, he was right where I had been sitting.”

“I slid back down the bluff and peeked out into the field. Two gobblers were messing around in my decoys. I used a deer trail running just inside the wood line to close the distance. When I was about 75 yards from the gobblers, I squeezed between two trees and softly struck my slate. The purring was too much. The biggest tom turned my way and started his death march. Every 10 yards or so, he’d look for the hen, but never spotted her. I leveled him at 15 yards. Although I have harvested many, this bird represents the Eastern sub-species of my Grand Slam.”

Merriam’s

“Wooded, western river bottoms coursing through the high plains teem with wildlife. The stretch of the Cheyenne River Jonathan Harling and I were hunting

near Edgemont, South Dakota is certainly no exception to this rule.”

“Harling and I embarked on a Black Hills turkey hunt in the spring of 2013 with hopes of hanging our tags on a couple of Merriam’s. Before noon on the first day, our mission was complete. We had started the day high in the hills but had been hearing birds down in the bottoms. My spirits soared as we descended into the cottonwoods.”

“At the river’s edge, we found a thick cluster of brush with a few bales of old wire to hide behind. Harling took to

(continued next page)

2020 Spring Turkey Season Continued

calling. He softly yelped to three gobblers, who returned a thunderous chorus. They came charging in. With my shotgun resting on a branch, I took aim and collected my Merriam's. Two seconds later, Harling collected his."

Rio Grande

"When I woke up in the loft of Russell Grave's barn just outside of Childress, Texas in the spring of 2018, I thought he was playing a joke on me. The gobbling going on outside was so loud, I figured it had to be coming from an electronic call he'd set up. It wasn't."

"Mesquite flats surrounded his property for as far as you could see. Few of the trees were big enough for a turkey to roost in. So each night, a couple of hundred birds would roost in the same cluster of taller trees behind Russell's house. When about 20 longbeards came in just after sunrise on the first morning, I picked out a beautiful Rio and the hunt was over."

Osceola

"It's fitting I finished my Grand Slam in 2020 with my Uncle Tom. I hunted with him as a kid, and he fueled my infatuation for all things outdoors. When he bought my great-great uncle's house in Okeechobee, FL last winter, I started planning our Osceola hunt. When it came to fruition last month, the entire experience was perfect."

"We had permission to hunt a 2,000-acre plantation that's half swamp. The idea was the guys leasing the property would know what they were doing when it came to turkeys. They didn't. They hunt deer and hogs regularly but had never killed a turkey. Basically, they said go over by those trees and pop up your blind. Tom and I figured we'd move once we had a better lay of the land. We never had to."

"A single bird gobbled a couple of times, and I gave him back a sweet little sequence. Not long after, Tom said, 'there's a turkey.' I pulled up my binoculars, and sure enough, it was a longbeard. I started on the slate call and turned him like a top. He covered a hundred yards in a few seconds and my Grand Slam was complete."

John Maxwell (Indianapolis, IN)

HOW board member and DNR photographer John Maxwell submitted these images and short report:



"Here's a photo of fellow HOW member Jarrett Manek calling mom with news of their daughter Abby bagging a nice bearded hen this spring," said Maxwell. The countryside in bloom is particularly picturesque, as per usual



with most Maxwell photos!

"Also, here is a photo that Jarrett took of me while I was taking the turkey-hunting pictures," continued Maxwell. "Standing nearby is my photography assistant, who was assigned to me by HOW board member Ranger Bob Sawtelle. This is Joe the Donkey."

Joe the Donkey approves of these photos.

McCormick is Treasure Hunting with Technology

HOW board member Troy McCormick has been embracing technology for many years. From computers and website development to digital photography with drones, he loves almost anything high-tech. So it should be no surprise that when he decided to get back into metal detecting, he wanted his equipment to be state-of-the-art.



“In an on-going effort to be in the outdoors as much as possible,” explained McCormick, “I recently re-discovered the joy of metal detecting. After all, who doesn’t dream of finding buried treasure or of secretly wanting to be a pirate?”

“I purchased my first metal detector, a Bounty Hunter Outlaw, when I was 13 years old. I used that early machine for a couple of decades and actually sold all of the silver I had found with it for \$2,000 to help pay for my second year in college. I still have that detector, but I’ve used it very infrequently since those early days.”

“While on an antelope hunt in Wyoming last October, I saw a metal detector hanging in my outfitter’s garage and we talked about treasure hunting. Then the outfitter I hunted with in South Carolina in December also had one. Two of the cameramen on my outdoor show had metal detectors, and as I began asking other people I found out that my Father had even bought one a few years ago. I just had to get back into this hobby!”

“Today I am treasure hunting with a much more sophisticated machine than what I started with back in the day. The Minelab CTX 3030 is a waterproof, all-terrain, full discriminating metal detector that can tell you if your signal is ferrous or nonferrous (iron or treasure), and how deep the target is. It is a gold and silver finding computer with a color touch screen and wireless headphones. It has built-in GPS tracking, ground balancing, and a lot more that I haven’t even figured out how to use yet!”

“I have been spending my social distancing time in the field this spring learning how to operate the machine and yes, I have been finding coins and historic relics. There is something extremely invigorating about getting a ‘good’ signal in the digital range of a coin or buried jewelry. Since last December I have been detecting in Arkansas, the Treasure Coast of Florida, South Carolina and Indiana.”

“A recent trip with HOW President Kenny Bayless, in Vigo County, Indiana, around an 1880’s schoolhouse was a successful outing because we determined the original location of the school. Even the landowner, who had lived on the property for 81 years, didn’t know the exact original location. The legend was that the schoolhouse had been pulled with horses across the field to its current location to be used as a barn. After a lot of searching, we found an area of the field, 200 yards to the east, that was full of old nails, brackets, metal straps and other nineteenth century building debris. Now we can go back to concentrate our efforts on more monetary type treasures.”



“I haven’t found enough coins to retire on yet, but my new Minelab metal detector is definitely keeping me outdoors and on new adventures. Plus, you never know when the next beep might be a buried treasure chest!”

Alan Garbers – Rattlesnake Hunter

HOW Past President Alan Garbers recently moved back to Arizona after living in Hoosierland for many years. He has always talked about how much he loved living in Arizona, and here is one of those reasons:

“While I am not a huge fan of hot weather,” said Garbers, “I do love what it means. Hot weather means rattlesnakes are active and on the hunt. Depending on who’s counting, Arizona has some sixteen to twenty species of rattlesnakes. In the central highlands where we live, there are five types; western diamondback, Arizona black, black-tailed, western, and the most colorful and venomous, the Mojave.”

“Rattlesnakes are an iconic piece of the Old West. As such, tourists gobble up anything rattlesnake. That’s where I come in. Long ago, I found that many local gift shops and ‘trading posts’ were more than willing to barter for my rattlesnake leathercraft. In exchange, I received Native American pottery, baskets, rugs, Katsina dolls, and jewelry. At the time, money was tight so it was the only way I could enjoy such finery.”



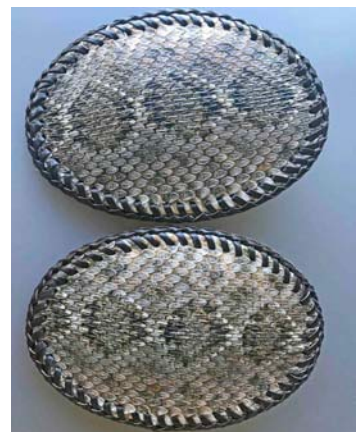
“My rules: remove the head for safety,” remarked Garbers. The rattlesnake **above left** is a western diamondback road kill. Garbers salvaged it so it wouldn’t go to waste, and he will turn it into some beautiful belt buckles. The rattlesnake **above right** is a 42” long Arizona black rattlesnake, and it will make several fine belt buckles, as well. **Below:** Two of the finished products. Beautiful! All photos here by Alan Garbers.

“Now that we are back home in Arizona, I have resumed my former hobby. While some may ask why I hunt venomous snakes, that question disappears the first time they go hunting with me. First and foremost, it is a thrill and a challenge. Every rattlesnake is a trophy, even if it’s a fresh road kill.”

“Second, my travels take me to the remote, wild areas of Arizona. The places I go are often the same as they were 100 to 1,000 years ago. As I search for my prey, I see elk, deer, and antelope. I walk through ancient ruins 1000 years old and follow abandoned railroad cuts that once carried Wyatt Earp, Doc Holiday, and other notable icons of history.”

“Third, I develop a relationship with the store owners I trade with. I make my leather craft top notch and link it to Arizona. Every piece I make is marked with the location the snake came from. This helps the store owners sell more. Many of these shops are on Route 66, The Mother Road, noted for its rapidly disappearing tourist traps. In some ways, I am part of that history.”

I love rattlesnake hunting, and my love has also bitten my family. Dianna enjoys seeing the wildlife, the trading trips, and the jewelry I barter for. Our daughter Erica, now 27, loves the thrill and wants to go hunting with me every chance she gets. My future son-in-law Wayne (now in the Army) looks forward to the day he can join us.”



Mike Schoonveld is “The Masked Fisherman”

HOW Board Chairman Mike Schoonveld loves to go fishing, and he wasn't going to let a little thing like the coronavirus stop him. Once the 'stay at home' order was lifted this spring, he headed for Lake Michigan. Of course, everything was not quite 'business as usual'.

“There used to be a time when showing up in a store or a bank wearing a mask would prompt a call to 911,” quipped Schoonveld. “Or the bank's security team would soon have you surrounded. These days, it's just the opposite! If you show up without a mask, one of the nicest things that might happen is having some 'official' contact you. More likely, a Wal-martian is going to be all over me like my big sister, Sandy when I grabbed the last jelly bean.”

“Luckily,” continued Schoonveld, “neck 'gaiters' have become more easily obtained by outdoor writers than hats with fishing logos. I used to leave a HOW or AGLOW meeting with a whole bag of new caps. Now I return home with a bundle of neck sleeves.”

“Designed to ward off errant UV rays on bright, sunny days, the Buffs and other brands make passable face shields - probably more effective than some of the home-built snot collectors I see on some Walmart shoppers. So I just wear them all the time.”

“Who knew it was my face scaring away the fish all these years? I knew that fish feared me, but it never dawned on me to wear a mask so they couldn't recognize me!”

“Here's a shot of me 'sheltering in place' on my boat in mid-May. The fish I'm holding is a good-sized Lake Michigan lake trout.”



Poynter Family Searches For Fungi

HOW Past President Bryan Poynter describes a recent morel mushroom hunt that he enjoyed with his family:

“A great way to celebrate a birthday,” exclaimed Poynter, “morel hunting in the springtime! Recently, my son Will told me he wanted to search for some morel mushrooms. The request came out of the blue and I needed to act quickly, so I turned to one of our HOW members for help. With one phone call, I was invited to hunt to our hearts content. What resulted was a fun family trek in the woods...and even a few of the coveted fungi!”

“I must admit that I had low expectations at the beginning of the trip. My past experiences have proved that when I set out to search for the mighty morel...the mushrooms usually win and are all but impossible to find. However, sometimes you get lucky. This healthy yellow morel held by Will was the coveted prize of the day.”

“Many thanks to our fellow HOW member (you know who you are)...for some good old Hoosier Outdoor Writer hospitality and a great afternoon in the woods.”

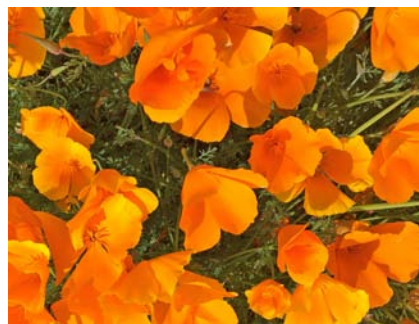


Garbers Enjoys Blooming Desert in the Springtime

As mentioned on a previous page of this issue, Alan Garbers is enjoying living in Arizona once again. This year marks the first time in a long time that he has lived there during the springtime, and he is certainly loving it.

“Many folks think Arizona is nothing but sand and rocks,” said Garbers. “Some places are like that, but not where we live. Prescott is the perfect location to see an ever-changing kaleidoscope of color. Within a two-hour drive I can visit six different climate zones. One of my favorites is the Sonoran Desert, which is just a short drive away.”

“Yes, summer can be brutal with temps into the 120’s on rare occasions. But as a reward, springtime is gorgeous.”



Don Cranfill Finds White Bass Success At Creekside Park-and-Wade Spots

HOW past president Don Cranfill likes stream fishing, but his current work schedule has him in a real rut. Work, work, work. Luckily, he realizes the benefits that some fishing and solitude can bestow, and he was recently rewarded for his efforts:

Living in the city, it can often be difficult to find good after-work fishing spots. Park-and-wade spots are few and far between. Big Eagle Creek, above Eagle Creek Reservoir has a few spots that have become increasingly popular every spring when the white bass, or silvers as they are also called, make their spawning run.

Recently, I found the 86th street bridge devoid of parked vehicles and available on a Saturday morning. This spot is popular, so I figured I must have missed

the run. I was in for a surprise! Fishing a twister tail grub on a jig head is my go-to lure for these hard hitters, which is handy because a small box in my back pocket was all that was required.

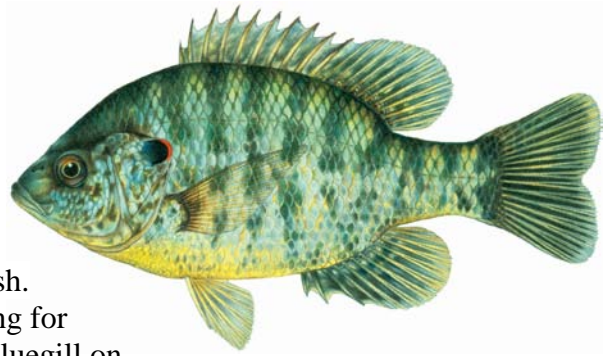
I hoped for a few hook-ups to break the monotony of too many 12-hour days in a row at



work. I had no idea the old St. Croix rod would get such a workout. In an hour and a half, I netted somewhere around thirty-six fish, a few dinks, a few respectable fish and one very nice fighter (for a creek fish) in 3 feet of water. Any pattern resembling a minnow is effective. I was using an iridescent white twister tail on a gold 1/8 oz jighead, and it was hot. I also used a bright green twister tail on the same jig and it produced, too.

If you, too, need a break from city life, stop by and check it out. You probably won't be disappointed. It has also become known locally there are trout in the creek a bit further upstream, but that's a story for another day...

Bramwell Becomes Part Of the ‘Redear Revolution’



HOW board member Rick Bramwell is a real fan of fishing ponds and lakes for panfish – especially large bluegills. But recently his attention has turned to sunfish.

“About two years ago I decided to concentrate on fishing for redear sunfish,” said Bramwell. “They look a lot like bluegill on steroids and not all have an obvious red or orange ear flap. They like to eat snails and small mussels. They have a small row of teeth in their jaw that allows them to crack the shells of their prey, thus they are also called shellcrackers.”

“There just doesn’t seem to be shellcrackers in abundance like there is bluegill,” he continued. “I used to catch redears by accident. They were mostly a bonus fish that came through the ice for me. Once in a while, I would take a nice one off of an old log in the water. When asked, a veteran conservation officer told me he had never checked an angler with a limit of 25 redears.”

“My friend Steve Jette and I began targeting redear last year on Geist Reservoir. The population has really exploded there with the invasion of the zebra mussel. We found one bay that is really good and has been producing redear for us for more than two weeks.”



Rick Bramwell with a redear sunfish in his right hand and a black crappie in his left hand. Photo courtesy of Rick Bramwell.

“We fished Geist Tuesday and caught big females full of eggs. We released most but kept two that measured 11.5 inches each. Jette had been catching them on a Slider Charlie Bee lure. I have used this same panfish grub in the past, but this one has a small willowleaf spinner. My lure of choice was a Muey jig tipped with a wax worm. Jette was leaving me in his wake until I began throwing the Charlie Bee. Chartreuse/orange or black/chartreuse worked best for us.”

“Meanwhile, over on Kentucky Lake, fellow HOW member Ken McBroom (*editor’s note: see next page*) has been keying on shellcrackers and has invented a jig to catch them. McBroom publishes the **Rambling Angler Outdoors** website (www.ramblingangler.com) and he sees redear fishing as ‘The new frontier’ in fishing. He says there is a lot to be learned about fishing for redear. His personal best shellcracker weighed 2 lbs, 6 oz.”

“Also, McBroom has been tweaking that new lure he calls ‘The Hairy Cricket Jig’. He tips the jig with a short piece of live worm and fishes it either under a bobber or by tight-lining it. The jig also catches bluegill, crappie and bass. Ken is hand-tying these jigs and selling them for \$1.75 each. Find them on his website (mine is in the mail).”

“Anglers seem to be attracted to this ‘Redear Revolution’. One guy catches them by the hundreds each spring from Santee Cooper Lake in South Carolina. The world record was broken three times in one year from those waters. The new record is 5 lbs, 12.8 oz from Lake Havasu in Arizona. Closer to home, Geist produced one that weighed 3 lbs, 8 oz.”

McBroom Enjoys the Challenge of Fishing for Trophy-Sized Redear Sunfish

HOW board member Ken McBroom is particularly fond of bass fishing, but in the springtime he has become a real sunfish enthusiast. In fact, it has been said that he has become obsessed with sunfish in general, and redear sunfish in particular – just like Rick Bramwell from the previous page.



Ken McBroom with a nice pair of big redear sunfish.

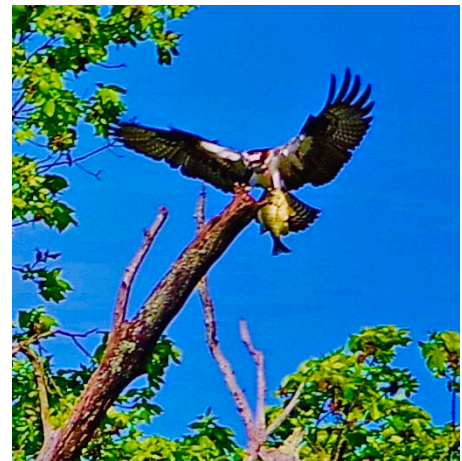
“The winter here was mild and the spring was wet – wreaking havoc on the fishing,” said McBroom. “Cold fronts and rain had the water temps fluctuating constantly. The heavy rains caused water levels to constantly fluctuate as well. This all made the bite tough for everybody, it seemed especially for redear sunfish anglers on Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley.”

“When the water finally stabilized (somewhat) and the sun came out for more than a couple of hours, the bite heated up for a few days. But then the same sun heated the water enough that the redears retreated to wherever they retreat to when they leave the shallows! I’m still trying to figure that out.”

“I was fortunate to be on the water when the bite was on and I managed a few good redear for

2020, albeit not as many as I would have liked. I am in contact with several redear anglers in the area and it was crazy for everyone this spring. There were some good redear being caught shallow around the first of April, and then it was off-and-on for a few weeks. I hit the lake each time these guys reported some catches, but they just were not biting where I fish for them.”

“It was mid-May before I was able to land a few and I am so thankful for the three days I was able to catch them before they vanished. For me, one of the great things about fishing is the challenge, and there is no shortage of that when it comes to the redear sunfish.”



McBroom took this photo of an osprey that caught its own redear sunfish.

Membership Changes and New Member Contact Info

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

Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation

Whitetail Deer Fawns Know How To Avoid Danger



Close-up



Original



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was definitely easier than usual, because it was correctly identified by a total of 11 HOW members. Bob Jennings, Mike Schoonveld, Troy McCormick, Nate Mullendore, Bryan McFadden, John Maxwell, Mike Berg, Bill Keaton, Jarrett Manek, Rich Creason and Phil Seng all identified it. When we drew a name at random for the **Hevi-Shot** hat and ammunition, Bryan McFadden was the winner. Congrats, Bryan! We’ll get the prize to you.

As you can see in the photo to the left, the mystery creature for this issue was a whitetail deer fawn (*Odocoileus virginianus*). Fawns are usually born between the end of April and mid-July, depending on where you live. Most adult female deer give birth to twin fawns, although sometimes there is only one (or as many as three). Within 30 minutes of birth, fawns can stand on their long, spindly legs all by themselves. They may not be very coordinated yet, but they will be

walking within a few hours. By the time they are one month old, they can outrun most predators.

When born, fawns are odorless. That helps them evade and hide from predators. When danger approaches, fawns hunker down in the grass and lie motionless. Besides being odorless, they are hard to see, too! Their camouflaged coat is reddish brown and covered with small white spots. The spots resemble dappled light hitting the forest floor, helping them blend in with their surroundings. Fawns that survive their first week have a good chance of staying alive and becoming adults.

NSSF
The Firearm Industry
Trade Association

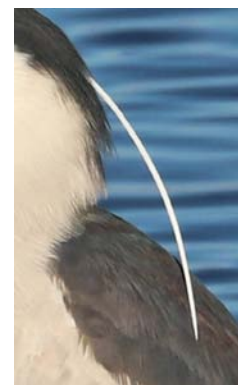
For this issue, our friends at the **National Shooting Sports Foundation** have donated a very nice prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be a 20-oz Yeti tumbler engraved with the **Project ChildSafe** 20th Anniversary logo (\$40 value). The tumbler comes with a Magslider lid. There will also be a \$25 cash award for the winner. See below for more info on the prize and this issue’s nature question.

Berg Poses A Difficult Nature Photo “What Is It?” Question

Tom Berg has posed a more difficult Nature Photo mystery than usual (we think). 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, although you are unlikely to 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 catfish, for example, go ahead and guess “blue catfish” (of course, it’s not a catfish). If you think you know the answer, send an email to thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you’re right, you will be eligible for this issue’s prize.



As mentioned, the **NSSF** (www.NSSF.org) has donated a 20-oz Yeti tumbler engraved with the **Project ChildSafe** logo for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. The winner also gets a \$25 cash award that can be used to pay for a NSSF Media membership or any other good cause. 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.

Hawke® Optics Introduces the Newest Vantage 30 Wide-Angle Riflescopes for AR's (.223, .308)

Fort Wayne, IN: Hawke® Optics is a leader at producing quality sporting optics that perform in the field at a stellar value for the consumer. For 2020, Hawke adds to the popular Vantage 30 WA series of riflescopes that have a strong

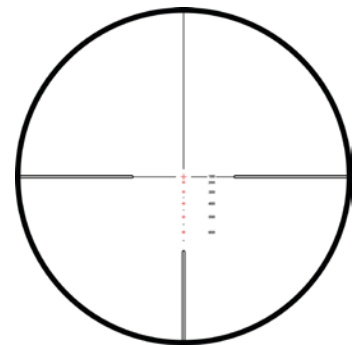


reputation for clarity, eye relief and field of view at a budget-friendly price.

The Hawke Vantage 30 WA 3-9x42 IR scope comes with a precision reticle designed for the popular 223/308 calibers. This compact scope is perfect for your AR-15, AR-10 or any rifle chambered for .223 or .308, with a special reticle calibrated and

optimized for these calibers. The illuminated crosshairs are set from 100 yards to 600 yards, making the popular scope a true threat for longer range shooting too. The 3-9 power magnification provides great versatility and the 42mm objective lens maximizes light transmission and clarity. Hawke Optics proved that lowered prices don't have to mean lowered quality and accuracy with the popular Vantage 30 WA scopes.

Built on a compact, 30mm mono-tube mainframe design, the Vantage 30 WA 3-9x42 IR has fixed parallax at 100 yards, making it a great fit for the highly versatile lineup. It comes loaded with 11-layer fully-multicoated optics that provide an amazing level of clarity and image quality at any price range. The scope has a glass-etched reticle with selectable red/green illumination and a five-position adjustable rheostat on the saddle. ¼-MOA fingertip-adjustable exposed and locking turrets give you quick and easy adjustment to get on target fast and stay there. Fast-focus adjustment on the eyepiece and plenty of eye-relief make target acquisition easy and reliable. Full nitrogen purging means this scope is water-proof, shock-proof and fog-proof, just as you should expect from a quality rifle scope, regardless of price.



Like every Hawke Optics product, the Vantage 30 WA 3-9x42 IR scope carries Hawke's No-Fault Lifetime Warranty. No questions asked – it's covered.

Media Contacts: For more information, HOW members may contact:

Jonina Costello, Full-Throttle Communications, email: jcostello@full-throttle.com, phone: 805-529-3700.

Kevin Sheehan, Hawke Optics V.P. of Sales & Marketing, email: ksheehan@hawkeoptics.com, phone: 877-429-5347, extension 401.

About Hawke:

#VISIONACCOMPLISHED. Hawke is a worldwide market leader at the forefront of optical performance with class-leading innovation and design offering a complete line of sport optics from rifle, crossbow, shotgun and air gun scopes to binoculars, spotting scopes and accessories. Accuracy, strength and precision; Hawke optics blend iconic design, exceptional engineering and unrivalled craftsmanship to create an unforgettable viewing experience. As awareness of Hawke Sport Optics continues to grow, more customers are trusting Hawke as the unquestioned industry leader in optics. Learn more at www.hawkeoptics.com.

HOW Supporting Member News

PowerPro Changes Everything – Without Changing Anything – NEW IMAGE, NEW EMPHASIS FOR THE NEW DECADE

Grand Junction, CO – March 3, 2020: Anglers who rely on PowerPro braid for their fishing success can expect changes over the next few months. Starting this spring, PowerPro is launching a new logo, new packaging, and an updated web site, along with their renewed commitment to bring the very best in braiding technology to the fishing market.

“We challenged ourselves to change everything without changing a thing,” said Tom Woldruff, PowerPro product manager, “including the use of the best Spectra fibers available and our proprietary innovations like our Enhanced Body Technology (EBT). This crafts a family of specific fishing braid that anglers know they can depend on.”

Anglers and tackle retailers are being pitched on lower cost, lower quality braided fishing line that is known to tangle and break. Woldruff notes PowerPro doesn't use unknown fibers from unknown sources, “making our long-time relationship with Honeywell Technologies – the maker of Spectra fibers – so important to assure anglers the PowerPro braid they are using is always of the best and consistent quality.”

As for the new PowerPro logo, Woldruff says they couldn't be happier with the end result. “Anglers will know it's the same PowerPro they know and trust on the water, and because of EBT where we can produce a rounder, smoother, slicker and structurally superior product. It still is the most reliable, highest-performing braided fishing line on the market,” adds Woldruff. “By bringing the fish in the logo to life with emotion in its eye and using the strong line across the top, we really captured the PowerPro story of connecting two living things on each end of the line with a mutual respect for one another.”

As Woldruff notes, “be on the look-out at tackle shops nationwide – and really worldwide. PowerPro is sold in 60-plus countries, and it is the best braided fishing line on the market. If it doesn't say EBT on the box, it's not PowerPro.”

Media Contact:

John Mazurkiewicz – Catalyst Marketing,
office phone: 574-289-1331, cell: 547-292-2500,
email: jpmazurk@ameritech.net.



About PowerPro Lines:

Manufactured in Grand Junction, Colorado, PowerPro offers more than just thin, strong braided line for conventional freshwater and saltwater fishing, with many ICAST 'New Product Showcase' winners in its line-up. There are also PowerPro lines designed for fly fishing backing, ice fishing, a special metered line for controlled depth fishing, and even near zero stretch downrigger cable replacement braid. Visit: powerpro.com - for more information.



HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Aquateko International - www.aquateko.com
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Bass Pro Shops - www.basspro.com
Black River Tools - www.blackrivertools.com
BoatUS - www.boatus.com
BOLT Locks - www.boltlock.com
BPI Outdoors - www.BPIoutdoors.com
Brella Rainwear - www.brellabrella.com
Buck Knives - www.buckknives.com
Bucket Grip - www.bucketgrip.com
Celox Medical - www.stopbleedingkits.org
Church Tackle Company - www.churchtackle.com
Cocoons Eyewear - www.cocoonseyewear.com
Costa Sunglasses - www.costadelmar.com
Daisy Outdoor Products - www.daisy.com
Danner Boots - www.danner.com
Dardevle by Eppinger - www.dardevle.com
DJ Illinois River Valley Calls - www.djcalls.com
Ducks Unlimited - www.ducks.org
Egret Baits - www.egretbaits.com
Environ-Metal, Inc. - www.hevishot.com
Falcon Guides - www.falcon.com
Finn Tackle Company - www.finnspoons.com
Fish Monkey Gloves - www.fishmonkeygloves.com
Flying Fisherman - www.flyingfisherman.com
G.Loomis - www.gloomis.com
Glacier Glove - www.glacierglove.com
Grizzly Fishing - www.grizzlyfishing.com
Gun Protect - www.mygunprotect.com
Hawke Sport Optics - www.hawkeoptics.com
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - www.henryUSA.com
HHA Sports - www.HHASports.com
Hoosier Trapper Supply -
www.hoosiertrappersupply.com
Howard Leight Shooting Sports -
www.howardleight.com
HT Enterprises - www.htent.com
Indiana Office of Tourism Development -
www.visitindiana.com
Jackall Lures - www.jackall-lures.com
LaCrosse Footwear - www.lacrossefootwear.com
Lawrence County Tourism -
www.limestonecountry.com
LensPen - www.lenspen.com
Lodge Manufacturing - www.lodgemfg.com

Mathews Archery - www.mathewsinc.com
Mossy Oak - www.mossyoak.com
National Shooting Sports Foundation - www.nssf.org
National Wild Turkey Federation - www.nwtf.org
Norsemen Outdoors - www.norsemenoutdoors.com
Nosler, Inc. - www.nosler.com
Nothead Tackle - www.notheadtackle.com
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - www.mossberg.com
Off Shore Tackle - www.offshoretackle.com
Otis Technology - www.otistec.com
Outdoor Sportsman Group - www.outdoorsg.com
PowerPro Lines - www.powerpro.com
Princeton University Press - www.press.princeton.edu
Pro-Cure Bait Scents - www.pro-cure.com
Quaker Boy Game Calls -
www.quakerboygamecalls.com
RAM Trucks - www.ramtrucks.com
Reef Runner Lures - www.reefrunner.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
RIO Products - www.rioproducts.com
Roeslein Alternative Energy - www.roeslein.com
Seaguar Fishing Lines - www.seaguar.com
Shimano American Corp. - www.shimano.com
Sierra Bullets - www.sierrabullets.com
Snag Proof Lures - www.snagproof.com
South Shore CVA - www.southshorecva.com
Sporting Classics - www.sportingclassics.com
St. Croix Rods - www.stcroixrods.com
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - www.ruger.com
Swab-Its - www.swab-its.com
Sweet Owen CVB - www.sweetowencvb.org
Tales End Tackle - www.talesendtackle.com
Target Communications Outdoor Books -
www.targetcommbooks.com
Toyota Motor Sales - www.toyotanewsroom.com
Traditions Media - www.traditionsmedia.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - www.ttiblakemore.com
Van Vuuren African Safaris - www.vvasafaris.com
Vexilar, Inc. - www.vexilar.com
Whitetails Unlimited - www.whitetailsunlimited.com
Widener's Reloading & Shooting Supply -
www.wideners.com
Winchester Ammunition - www.winchester.com
W.R. Case - www.wrcase.com
Yamaha Marine Group - www.yamahaoutboards.com

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

Hoosier Outdoor Writers

Application For New Membership

(Check Desired Classification below)

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

Personal Information:

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

Professional Information:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Signature: _____

Sponsor: _____

Who We Are

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

What We Do

These are the purposes of HOW:

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

What We Stand For

These are what we strive to accomplish:

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

Membership Requirements

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

1. Active

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



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

2. Associate

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

3. Supporting

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

4. Active Student

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

5. Associate Student

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

Calendar of Events

POMA 2020 Annual Conference:

(www.professionalooutdoormedia.org)

Online “Virtual Conference”

June 16-18, 2020

OWAA 2020 Annual Conference:

(www.owaa.org)

Online “Virtual Conference”

June 26-27, 2020

ICAST 2020 Show:

(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)

Resort at Glade Springs, WV

October 7-10, 2020

SHOT Show 2021:

(<http://shotshow.org>)

Las Vegas, NV

January 19-22, 2021

POMA 2021 Annual Conference:

(www.professionalooutdoormedia.org)

Franklin, TN

February 1-3, 2021

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