

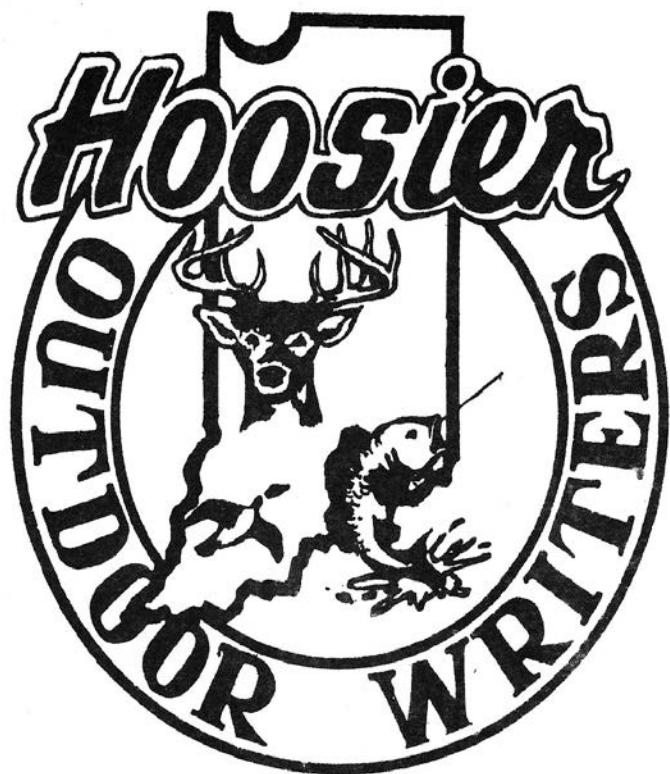


The Blade

January - February 2021

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers

"Beavers Stay Busy, Even in Winter", 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: Two fairly large trees were recently cut down by busy beavers adjacent to a small pond in northwest Indiana's Lake County. Winter weather did not deter them. The trees were expertly felled so that they ended up in the pond – just where the beavers wanted them! Photo by Tom Berg.

President's Message

by Kenny Bayless (*The Redneck Quaker*)

A friend of mine, Nick Gabry, is a dedicated outdoors enthusiast and bird watcher. He recently sent me some great news about the Wabash Valley Audubon Society (WVAS).

He said, "We are extremely proud to announce that WVAS has officially received the Bird Town Indiana designation for the city of Terre Haute!" The Bird Town Indiana program is coordinated through the Indiana Audubon Society and the Bird Town designations are awarded to cities in which public officials and citizens demonstrate an active and ongoing commitment to the protection and conservation of bird populations and their habitats. Over the last eight years, WVAS has worked hard within the community to provide resources, influence decision making, and promote behaviors which help take care of the habitats which the birds have been kind enough to share with us.



Steve Brewer and Paul Bridgewater are also dedicated to the bird species in the Terre Haute area since they head-up the Quail Forever Chapter. They not only donate the seed for wildlife habitat, they till the soil and plant the seed, too! Paul enjoys hauling his old Ford tractor to the locations to be planted. They get very excited if a nice covey of quail are spotted in their food plot areas.

Keep an eye out for the monthly member meeting announcements made through email and on Facebook. Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month.

To go along with habitat is a food source few people think about, which is insects. Seth Borenstein, the world's top bug expert, tells me the world's vital insect kingdom is undergoing 'Death by a thousand cuts'. Climate change, insecticides, herbicides, light pollution, invasive species and changes in agriculture and land use are causing Earth to lose probably 1% to 2% of its insects each year, said University of Connecticut entomologist, David Wagner. He is the lead author in the special package of 12 studies in the recent Proceeding of the National Academies of Science written by 56 scientists from around the globe.

The problem, sometimes called the insect apocalypse, is like a jigsaw puzzle, and scientists say they still don't have all the pieces. So they have trouble grasping its enormity and complexity and getting the world to notice and do something.

Two well-known species which best illustrate insect problems and declines are honeybees and Monarch butterflies. Wagner said honeybees have been in dramatic decline because of disease, parasites, insecticides, herbicides and lack of food.

My wife, Jerrilynn, enjoys laboring over her bee hives and asks for help from me on occasion. I'm a sissy, and if I get stung I cry and run away as fast as an antelope!

When I've escorted hunters on safari in Africa, I always ask them "*How fast can you run?*" Usually, with a worried look on their face, they answer with "*Why do you ask?*"

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 21.

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

Jack Alkire – HOW President 1979
Bill Beeman – Executive Director
Don Bickel
Ed Blann
Charlie Brown
Gary Carden
Jim “Moose” Carden – HOW President 1982-83
George Carey
John Case
Bill Church – HOW President 1972
Jack “Big Jake” Cooper
Mark Cottingham
Jerry Criss
Gary “Dox” Doxtater
Dick Forbes
Tom Glancy – HOW President 1977
Dale Griffith
Fred Heckman
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
Kenny Bayless	2020

HOW Conference Canceled

2021 HOW Conference Canceled Due to Covid-19

It is with great sadness that we confirm our 2021 HOW Conference at Turkey Run State Park has been canceled due to the pandemic. We waited as long as we could to make this decision in the hopes that things would clear up in time for us to meet at Turkey Run in April, but it was just not happening.

After talking with our sales contacts at Turkey Run, they reported they are still limiting groups to 25 people and they are not providing normal food service yet. So unfortunately, we have canceled the event for this spring.

It is possible that we will organize a smaller event later in the year if the pandemic eases significantly, but we cannot promise anything for sure. It is more likely that we will just have to look forward to a spring conference in 2022. The 2022 conference will be again be scheduled for Turkey Run, and we will determine a date as soon as possible.



The Turkey Run Inn will still welcome HOW members next April at the start of our 2022 conference. We will determine a date in the coming months. Photo by Tom Berg.

On a brighter note, we will still be able to enjoy some of the features of the conference this spring, just in a remote or virtual way. The Awards-in-Craft contests will continue as normal, but the winners will be notified via email and in an announcement in the next issue of *The Blade*. The awards certificates and checks will be mailed rather than delivered in person. A big thank-you goes out to Toyota Motor Sales for sponsoring the contests again this year. Besides the normal writing, photography and broadcast contests, this year we will also be having a book contest.

The HOW/TIP Writing contest is still being held as well, and the TIP Board will be judging each of those TIP article entries. The Indiana Turn in a Poacher (TIP) Citizen's Advisory Board is sponsoring this contest, and our thanks goes out to them as well.

We will also be having a limited HOW Raffle, featuring three different firearms as the prizes. Active HOW members will be able to participate in this special raffle, made possible by our friends from **Henry Repeating Arms Company** and **Sturm, Ruger & Company** and **O.F. Mossberg & Sons**. More details for the raffle are on the next page.



The Annual HOW Raffle

The 2021 HOW Raffle Continues in New Format

Even though the 2021 HOW Conference has been canceled, the annual HOW Raffle will continue! It will be a bit different this year, of course, since we can't meet in person, but it should still be fun. And since this raffle will be a "virtual" event, all Active HOW members will be eligible to participate – not just those present at the conference!

The biggest difference with this year's HOW Raffle is that we will only have a firearms raffle. As most people who attend the regular HOW conference know, the HOW Raffle is usually two raffles in one. The main raffle includes a wide array of outdoors products from our diverse group of HOW Supporting members. We usually have everything from fishing and hunting equipment to optics and archery gear, outdoor clothing, footwear, books, cookware, shooting gear and cutlery – you name it. But then we also have a separate raffle for big-ticket items, which typically only includes firearms and archery equipment (bows). This separate raffle is only for Active HOW members and tickets are more expensive – \$10 each.

Since we will not be able to meet in person this year, we will not have the main raffle. The large quantity of smaller prizes for the main raffle would be too difficult to distribute remotely, so we will delay that part of the raffle until next year. Instead, we will only have the firearms raffle. Winners of our firearms prizes will receive a gift certificate which they can redeem through their local gun shop or FFL dealer. It will work perfectly for our "Virtual Raffle".

As mentioned above, we will be limiting raffle ticket sales to Active HOW members. This means Associate, Associate Student, Retired and Supporting members will not be eligible to purchase tickets. This rule is in place so that only Active, ink-producing (or airtime-producing) members can win these prizes. After all, the manufacturers supplying these high-end prizes are hoping for media coverage and exposure for their products, and Active members are the most likely to provide this.

Non-Active members who are interested in participating in the firearms section of the HOW Raffle next year can use this as a catalyst to jump-start their writing or media career and strive for Active membership!

Firearms raffle tickets will again be \$10 each. There is no limit to the number of tickets that Active members can purchase, and of course the more tickets you buy the better your chances of winning. There are three prizes up for grabs in this firearms raffle: a **Henry** single shot shotgun with a brass receiver (.410 bore), a **Ruger** American rifle featuring *Go Wild* camo (caliber: 308 WIN), and a **Mossberg** 500 Combo Field/Deer shotgun with two barrels (20 gauge). Any of these firearms would make a great addition to your collection!

The HOW Raffle is the only fund-raising event of the year for the Hoosier Outdoor Writers, so be sure to get involved and join in on the fun. **Again, tickets are \$10 each and ticket sales will start immediately.** Your raffle ticket purchases help support HOW, and you might just walk away with a great new gun from one of our Supporting members. Please make your checks out to: **HOW**. Mail checks to Tom Berg, 2142 Nondorf St., Dyer, IN 46311. You may also pay online at the HOW website by choosing the "Donations" tab and donating in increments of \$10. If you pay online, please send an email to thomas.berg@comcast.net to let me know about your purchase. A ticket number will be emailed to you for each ticket purchased.

Detailed specifications and images of each of these fine firearms are shown on the following three pages. If you have any questions about the raffle or the individual prizes, please contact HOW Raffle Chairman Tom Berg at thomas.berg@comcast.net.

The Annual HOW Raffle

Henry H015B-410 Single Shot Shotgun, Brass Receiver (.410 Bore)



The Henry .410 shotgun has an American walnut stock with a smooth brass buttplate on the brightly polished brass-framed model. The barrel is black matte finished, with a straight English-style wrist. Shells are fully ejected upon opening the action for a quick follow-up shot if needed, not just partially extracted. Brass beads are standard, barrel length is 26" for good reach in the field, with a 14" length of pull. We've done our best to keep weights down for field carry, and one thing we want to emphasize is that these shotguns are not intended to be budget entries – our standards are high and you can count on them for the long run. **MSRP = \$646.00**

This Henry single-shot break-top .410 shotgun (brass) features a rebounding external hammer and dual-direction pivoting locking lever setup that blocks hammer contact with the firing pin unless the trigger is pulled. The same interlock system prevents opening the action with the hammer cocked, or closing it with the hammer cocked, as additional safety measures.

We know as well as you do, that one choke does not fit all hunters; the single-shot shotgun has removable chokes. You can adapt your shotgun's choke and thus alter its pattern and range, so your shotgun can be used effectively in a wide variety of hunting and/or shooting situations. The .410 comes with a Full Choke with Invector style threads, giving it the most effective pattern for small game and trap.

Single Shot Shotgun Brass .410 Bore

Model Number	Action Type	Caliber	Chamber Size	Capacity	M.S.R. Price
H015B-410	Single Shot Shotgun	<u>.410 Bore</u>	3" Shells	1 Round	\$646.00

Additional Specifications

Barrel Length	26"	Scopeability	N/A
Barrel Type	Round Blued Steel	Scope Mount Type	N/A
Rate of Twist	N/A	Stock Material	American Walnut
Overall Length	41.5"	Buttplate/Pad	Brass
Weight	6.73 lbs.	Length of Pull	14"
Receiver Finish	Polished Brass	Safety	Rebounding Hammer
Rear Sight	None	Best Uses	Target/Hunting/Bird Shot
Front Sight	Brass Bead	Embellishments/Extras	Internally threaded for Invector style chokes (Full included). 3" Shells

The Annual HOW Raffle

Ruger Model #26926 American Rifle with Camo (Caliber: 308 WIN)

RUGER AMERICAN® RIFLE WITH GO WILD® CAMO



The Ruger American rifle features the Ruger Marksman Adjustable™ trigger, which offers a crisp release with a pull weight that is user adjustable between 3 and 5 pounds, allowing shooters to make that perfect shot.

The rifle has an ergonomic, lightweight synthetic stock designed for quick, easy handling. It blends a classic look with modern fore-end contouring and grip serrations. The soft rubber butt pad is crafted for maximum recoil reduction.

The one-piece, three-lug bolt with 70° throw provides ample scope clearance and utilizes a full diameter bolt body and dual cocking cams for smooth, easy cycling from the shoulder.

Patented Power Bedding®, integral bedding block system positively locates the receiver and free-floats the barrel for outstanding accuracy. The threaded barrel with factory-installed muzzle brake is cold hammer-forged, resulting in ultra-precise rifling that provides exceptional accuracy and longevity.

The visible, accessible and easy-to-actuate tang safety provides instant security. It includes a factory-installed, one-piece Picatinny scope base, one magazine, and sling swivel studs.

The Ruger American rifle offers minute-of-angle accuracy that can make every hunt a success. **MSRP: \$629.00**

MODEL NUMBER: 26926 | CALIBER: 308 WIN

Stock	GO Wild® Camo I-M Brush Synthetic
Stock Style	Standard
Magazine	AI-Style
Sights	None
Barrel Length	22"

Capacity	3
Thread Pattern	5/8"-24
Finish	Burnt Bronze Cerakote®
Weight	6.6 lb.
Twist	1:10" RH

Overall Length	42"
Length of Pull	13.75"
Grooves	5
UPC	7-36676-26926-6
Suggested Retail	\$629.00

The Annual HOW Raffle

Mossberg 500 Combo Field/Deer Shotgun Model #54047 (20 Gauge)



The Mossberg 500 Combo Field/Deer shotgun (Model #54047) is perfect for the hunter and the clay target shooter. The most prolific and reliable shotgun in the world is also the most versatile shotgun platform available, with a model to fit every season, every application, and every user. **MSRP: \$498.**

FEATURES:

This Mossberg 500 Field/Deer Combo features a black synthetic dual comb stock with a blued metal finish. This 20 gauge combo comes with two barrels: a 24" fully rifled barrel and a 26" vent rib barrel with bead sights. It is equipped with a 3" chamber, includes an Accu-Set of choke tubes, and comes with a Dead Ringer 2.5x20mm scope.

It also features dual extractors, positive steel to steel lockup, twin action bars, and an anti-jam elevator to ensure smooth operation. The top mounted safety provides for ambidextrous operation.

Ideal for new shooters looking to get the most out of their budget, and experienced shooters looking for a reliable platform for field hunting from the leading brand in pump-action shotguns.

After over 50 years and over 10 million guns and counting – and the only pump action to be declared MilSpec – the Mossberg 500 has proven to be one of the most versatile and reliable shotgun platforms available, offering a model to fit every application, and every user from our households, to law agencies, to military worldwide.

Built rugged. Proudly American made.

SPECIFICATIONS

Gauge	20
Capacity	5+1
Chamber	3"
Barrel Type	Vent Rib (26")
Barrel Length	26", 24"
Sight/Base	Bead, Dead Ringer 2.5x20
Scope	Dead Ringer 2.5x20mm
Choke	Accu-Set, Fully Rifled Bore
LOP Type	Fixed
LOP	13.87"
Barrel Finish	Matte Blued
Stock Finish	Synthetic Dual Comb (Black)
Weight	7.25
Length	46.5", 44.5"
UPC	015813540476

The 2021 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

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

TOYOTA MOTOR SALES

**For sponsoring the 2021
HOW Awards-In-Craft Contests**



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

For immediate release: January 25, 2021

Otter Trapping Season Reaches Quota, Closes Early

Indiana DNR has closed the river otter trapping season after reaching its statewide quota. The season was scheduled to run from November 15 until March 15, or until the quota of 600 river otters was reached.

The framework of Indiana's river otter season was carefully designed to limit the total harvest. Databases and reporting mechanisms allow for close monitoring of the total season harvest.

In addition to the quota, DNR regulations require that successful trappers register their otter within 24 hours. Regulations also require tagging of each pelt at a river otter check station or by authorized DNR personnel.

“Licensed trappers had a successful 2020–21 limited river otter trapping season,” said Geriann Albers, furbearer biologist with the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife. “While the season has closed, DNR is continuing to collect data from legally trapped river otter to help guide future management decisions.”



A river otter lounges on the shoreline while eating a fish that it caught a few minutes earlier inside McCormick's Creek State Park. Photo by Tom Berg.

More information about the river otter trapping season can be found at wildlife.IN.gov/8499.htm. Learn more about river otters: wildlife.IN.gov/7438.htm.

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

Media Contact: Geriann Albers, furbearer biologist, DNR Fish & Wildlife, phone: 812-822-3304, email: galbers@dnr.IN.gov.

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

For immediate release: February 23, 2021

Help Our Wildlife by Donating Your State Tax Refund

You can help Indiana's warblers, bats, salamanders and other wildlife by donating to the Indiana Nongame Wildlife Fund when you file your 2020 state taxes. For every \$5 donation, Indiana is eligible to receive an additional \$9 in federal funds.

This dedicated fund supports Indiana's nongame and endangered wildlife. "Nongame" means species that are not hunted, trapped, or fished for. Endangered wildlife are those in danger of disappearing from the state. No state tax dollars are used to manage nongame and endangered wildlife.

You can donate all or a portion of your state tax refund to the Nongame Wildlife Fund by marking the appropriate boxes on your 2020 Indiana tax forms or when filing electronically. A video of this process is at <https://bit.ly/3ua1JpZ>.

To donate, fill out Line 1 of Schedule 5/Schedule IN-DONATE form with "Indiana Nongame Wildlife Fund", enter the three-digit code "200", and then enter donation amount on Line 17 of the main IT-40 form.

Direct donations can also be made at any time online (on.IN.gov/nongamewildlifefund) or by mail.

Habitat management and conservation efforts for nongame and endangered wildlife are supported through the generosity of Hoosiers and supplemental grants from the federal government. Donations have funded recent projects to provide nesting habitat for loggerhead shrikes, identify previously unknown populations of green salamanders, and track lake sturgeon movements.

Find out more about Indiana's nongame and endangered wildlife: wildlife.IN.gov/2356.htm.

Media Contact: Scott Johnson, wildlife science supervisor, DNR Fish & Wildlife, phone: 812-287-8302, email: sjohnson@dnr.IN.gov.

HELP INDIANA'S RARE WILDLIFE

YOU CAN HELP
CONSERVE INDIANA'S
FISH AND WILDLIFE FOR
FUTURE GENERATIONS

GIVE \$5

FISH & WILDLIFE WILL RECEIVE \$14

FOR EVERY \$5 DONATED TO THE INDIANA NONGAME WILDLIFE FUND, AN ADDITIONAL \$9 IS AWARDED FROM FEDERAL FUNDS. NO STATE TAX DOLLARS ARE USED.

DONATE AT:
[ON.IN.GOV/NONGAMEWILDLIFEFUND](https://on.IN.gov/nongamewildlifefund)

DNR
Indiana Department
of Natural Resources



“Call To Action”

Indiana-based NTA issues a “Call To Action” for all trappers, hunters and conservationists

We have all heard it said that the anti-hunters and anti-trappers have more money to push their agenda than we do, and that’s true. It’s true because the believers in their cause step up to the plate, and they do so not to gain a profit, but to stand behind their cause. Wow, that’s impressive. They stand behind their cause, give their time and their money for what they believe.

With almost a quarter of a million trappers in North America, less than 10% belong to the National Trappers Association (NTA) – the organization that is there standing up for their rights and their freedom to trap. Less than 10% of the trappers in this nation are bearing the burden and standing between the trappers and the entities that are trying to make them extinct.


Not one single trapper who has ever gone into the woods or streams and set a trap can truthfully say that they have not profited from trapping. Whether it be in the form of memories, a fur check, or the few but fortunate that have made it a business successful enough to feed their families, every trapper that has set a trap has profited. Yet, approximately 90% are allowing themselves to be outgunned by a foe that receives no gratification other than the demise of trappers and trapping.

Every person who can afford to buy a license, traps and other equipment, gas and time to run a trapline can afford the price of a membership to defend their trapping future. Each year when you are putting your budget together, the cost of an NTA membership should be included right there along with lures, peat moss, and other possibles that it takes for a successful season. Without it, it’s not “IF” we will lose our trapping rights, but “WHEN”.

December 9, 2020 was a historical day for trapping. On that day, a team made up of representatives of the National Trappers Association and the Fur Takers of America (FTA) jointly gave a pro-trapping presentation at the 2020 National Assembly of Sportsmen’s Caucuses (NASC) Summit. The audience was made up of senators, congressmen, representatives and professionals of the wildlife management field. As far as we know, this was the first time in the history of both the NTA and the FTA that the two groups delivered a message as one, representing all the trappers of North America before an assembly of any kind. Now is the time for action!

We would like to repeat, the team spoke on behalf of ALL the trappers of North America and not just the 10% that are doing their due diligence to defend the other 90%. We believe that history has shown that the average well-meaning person will fall for the ploys of the antis as long as the people delivering the information are credentialed. Those spokesmen make the antis’ allegations believable without a shred of hard data to back it up. How long can the 10% be successful in defending our heritage and our trapping rights for the other 90%?

Make the decision to step up and do something. Don’t let your trapping heritage disappear because you did nothing. Help us by becoming the 90% fighting for the 10% by signing up as a member and signing up other new members.

	NTA Benefits *YOUR trapping rights Protected! *Annual free classified Ad In the <i>American Trapper</i> *A voting voice in the Future of the NTA *Educational Scholarships for students *Representation at National and international wildlife meetings *Educational materials to inform the public *Subscription to the NTA magazine “American Trapper”	NATIONAL TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-yr membership - \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> 3-yr membership - \$80	<input type="checkbox"/> 2-yr membership - \$55 <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (15 & under) - \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> DO NOT SELL	
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)			
Name _____			
Address _____			
City _____ State _____ Zip _____			
Phone ____ () _____ Birthdate _____			
Email _____			
Amount Enclosed \$ _____			
Send To: NTA 429 H Street Bedford, IN 47421 Toll Free Number 866-680-8727		Email: ntaheadquarters@nationaltrappers.com • Website: http://www.nationaltrappers.com	

CALL TO ACTION



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 enjoys a good photographic challenge! “The secrets to taking quality photos of a hyperactive acrobat like the **Tufted Titmouse** (*Baeolophus bicolor*) is to spend lots of time in the field, or to be very lucky,” said Hoffman. “One of the best approaches to shooting birds is to locate their food supply.” While quantities of caterpillars, insects and snails that are preferred by titmice may be hard to locate, they also rely on berries, nuts and seeds. That being the case, your average bird feeder will lure titmice into range, especially during the winter. Belonging to the same family as chickadees, titmice usually survey backyard feeders from a distance before diving in to select a single sunflower seed, and then flit off to hammer the shell with its small round bill to release the seed. Like chickadees, titmice also store quantities of shelled seeds for winter.



The tufted titmouse’s feathers are mostly shades of grey, including its signature crest. Its large eye, bill and forehead are black, while its flank is described as “rust-brown” or “orange-buff.” However, Hoffman asserts that “Creamsicle-orange” better describes the unique hue.

Like woodpeckers and flickers, titmice nest in tree cavities even though they aren’t capable of excavating the cavities themselves. Thus, they frequently adopt abandoned nest cavities as well as natural cavities and constructed nest boxes. “Last year I observed a male and female take turns thoroughly examining a natural cavity in one of my locust trees,” said Hoffman. “I had visions of easily photographing them all spring, but the natural hole apparently didn’t meet their specifications.” Lining their nests with the hair of wild and domestic animals, the spunky tufted titmouse has been reported to snatch hair from live animals. “One would have to both spend a lot of time in the field and be exceptionally lucky to get that shot,” he said.

Report from Tom Berg:

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg always brings his camera with him in the boat while fishing, and it sometimes pays off with some nice bird photos if the fish aren’t biting. Last summer while fishing in Wisconsin he spied a **Belted Kingfisher** (*Megaceryle alcyon*) fishing the same waters nearby.

“I love seeing kingfishers,” said Berg, “but they are usually too far away or too fast to get a good photo. This female kingfisher was pretty far away, but a long lens brought her a little closer.”

Belted Kingfishers are slightly larger than a robin, and they are an interesting blue-gray color above with a white belly and a white ring around their neck. Males have a blue band across the chest and females have a blue and rust-colored band on their chest. They all have a long, pointed black bill. Of course, their favorite foods are minnows and other small fish.



Did you take a cool bird photo while exploring afield recently? Did you see the bird in your back yard? While traveling far from home? Send the photo in!

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

Who “Owns” Your Website Address?

by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

The person who built the website for my charter fishing business, maintained it and hosted it for the past 24 years, died unexpectedly. I only found out when a repeat customer texted me, “Did you know your website is down?” After a few days of sending emails, voicemails and texts, I got a return message from his daughter letting me know Mitch had passed.

I was saddened by the news. I liked Mitch. He was just 62 years old, with wife, children and grandkids. However, it left me with a conundrum, as well as a heavy heart. What about my website?

His family had nothing to do with his web business. Back when the site was built, web designers had to know and use HTML code. I’d seen the screen when I met with him to make changes. It was just lines of text, numbers and symbols – gibberish to me. I knew nothing of how or where he “hosted” the site.

In short, my site was as dead as Mitch.

Luckily, I owned the URL (Universal Resource Locator) – the website address – and could still access it at GoDaddy.com. Do you own your web address?

I checked with several of the other captains in our charter association and learned a number of them didn’t own their address, or were unsure about who owned it. If not themselves, then perhaps their web-guy, web-host, or someone else. A common answer to the question was, “I don’t know. I just pay (someone or some place) monthly or annually and let them take care of it.” How would you answer?

There is a happy ending for me. There are now dozens and dozens of sites on the Internet with free website building templates. Using them isn’t much more complicated than posting photos and text on Facebook. There’s no need to know the HTML code.

I chose www.wix.com and in five or six hours I built a replacement site and was able to connect it to the same URL I’ve used in my advertising, brochures, business cards and elsewhere for the past quarter century. I don’t think I lost any ranking with Google or other search engines. My phone is still ringing from new customers who “found me on the Internet.” Double good news, I don’t have to write my annual check to Mitch each year – or to anyone else.

If you are unsure of who owns your URL, check on it at the website www.whois.com/whois. If you would like to see what I did with my “resurrected” website, type in my address to check it out: www.brother-nature.com.



Suspect Arrested for Burning Down Brandon Butler's Hunting Cabin

by Patrick Durkin from the Meateater website

Jan 27, 2021 – *This is a follow up to the original article published on the Meateater website by Patrick Durkin, about how Brandon Butler's cabin in Missouri was burned. This article below was also first published on the Meateater website and is reprinted with permission.*



The southeastern Missouri man arrested Jan. 16 for allegedly torching a cabin in retaliation for a poaching complaint has a 17-year criminal history. His rap sheet includes burglary, poaching, physical assault, and traffic violations. The convicted felon also served prison time for possessing a firearm and controlled drugs.

Corey J. Landrigan, 32, was denied bail when arraigned Jan. 19 because according to a criminal complaint in Missouri's online court dockets, his criminal past poses a threat to public safety. Authorities arrested Landrigan in connection with the Jan. 4 arson that destroyed Brandon Butler's cabin on his 43-acre property in the Ozarks of Shannon County near Timber.

Butler cohosts the Driftwood Outdoors Podcast and formerly was executive director of the Conservation Federation of Missouri. He said he knew of Landrigan, but their only encounter had been a brief, friendly conversation sometime in the past.

As reported on Jan. 19, Butler filed a complaint with the Missouri Department of Conservation after witnessing a poaching attempt the night of Nov. 15, opening weekend of the state's firearms deer season. Butler and his friends saw a truck enter a field less than 300 yards from his cabin, and heard at least two shots after the truck's occupants illuminated the field with a light bar. Butler gave chase, got the truck's license-plate number, and reported it to MDC investigators. He's certain someone torched his cabin in retaliation.

Investigators learned the truck was registered to a woman who lives with Landrigan's father. They also learned Landrigan wasn't in the truck that night. Three women were involved in the poaching attempt, including the truck's owner, and one of them confessed to the shootings. Investigators found no dead or wounded deer in the field or adjacent woods.

When Butler learned of the fire early in the morning Jan. 4, he drove 3½ hours to Timber from his home in Columbia, Missouri. By the time he arrived, all that remained of his cabin was smoldering ashes and the fireplace. Everything else burned or collapsed.

Butler has long kept three trail cameras trained on the cabin for security, including one in plain view of visitors. When he checked the "dummy" camera, he found someone had removed its SD card. The two cameras he concealed nearby in the woods were untouched. Their SD cards held photos of a man carrying a rifle and container toward the cabin. Photos minutes later showed the man returning only with the rifle as flames erupted from the cabin. A time-lapse sequence documented the cabin's fiery destruction.

Investigators arrested the suspect after studying the photographs and crime scene. A hearing to discuss bond and legal representation for Landrigan was scheduled for Jan. 26. No trial date has been set.

Butler is disappointed, but not surprised that some locals and nearby residents fault him for filing the complaint. He concedes he should have been more specific in recent articles and podcasts in assigning blame, and said he faults only a small subculture near his property.

"I have the highest regard for that area, and hoped to live down there at some point," Butler said. "I share the same values and freedoms most people there treasure. But poaching, trespassing, and running dogs during deer season are a problem in that hollow around my 40 acres, and I had to do something about it. We can't allow poachers to keep stealing from everyone else around there."

Butler has since learned that three other cabin owners within five miles of his property have also had their places

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burned in recent years. Two of them contacted Butler. One said he chased off a man he caught cutting his fence. The other victim removed a trespasser during the muzzleloading season. They both said their cabins were torched soon after the incidents.

Butler's hunting buddies said they enjoyed hunting, fishing, and rafting the area, but had grown increasingly worried by lawbreakers during the firearms deer season. Eric Hoskins, a longtime friend, recalls his first gun hunt there in 2017. Two road hunters shot his direction to kill a yearling buck just yards from his treestand. They didn't see him until approaching to finish it off, even though he was wearing a blaze-orange hat and vest. In fact, they scolded him for not putting blaze orange on an abandoned blind nearby to alert them he was hunting the site.

"They were road hunting," Hoskins said. "I'd seen them flying up and down the road that day in their truck. We also see lots of people running hounds. They equip their dogs with GPS collars and drive around following them. They'll say they're hunting foxes, but we never see any fox. We see deer running around with their tongues hanging out because the dogs are everywhere. Deer season is the only time we see those dogs."

Hoskins, a firefighter who lives near Indianapolis, respects Butler for reporting the poaching attempt, but warned him it would prove costly. "I've met a lot of great people down there, but others still think it's their land and they go where they want," Hoskins said. "They live in their own world. I told Brandon they wouldn't just throw a rock through his window or break in and burglarize him. I said they're going to burn your place down, and they did."

Hoskins dismissed online critics who claimed the poachers likely needed food. "Those Facebook critics weren't there, so they don't know what happened," he said. "The poachers were driving a new truck. They weren't starving."

Nathan "Shags" McLeod and Derek Butler, Brandon's cousin, think Brandon Butler felt duty-bound to report the poaching attempt, not ignore it. Although they have received some recent local backlash, they continue receiving support from Shannon County residents who condemn the crimes. McLeod said Butler organized a cleanup Jan. 23 and 24. About 18 people showed up, and some were strangers who just wanted to help.

"We salvaged very little, and the smell and soot really gets to you, but everyone pitched in," McLeod said. "You get all smudged and when you sneeze, everything comes out black. You carry the soot and smoke with you when you leave."

Butler said the cleanup felt like a two-day funeral, but he kept reminding himself his loss isn't unique. "I heard from a lot of people around the country who suffered similar crimes, and the arsonist in many cases was never caught," he said. "I can't imagine what it would feel like if the person was still out there, and could do it again to someone else."

The crew who helped Butler clean up the fire aftermath, including fellow HOW members Don Cranfill and Scott Weaver.



Ruffed Grouse Listed as an Endangered Species in Indiana

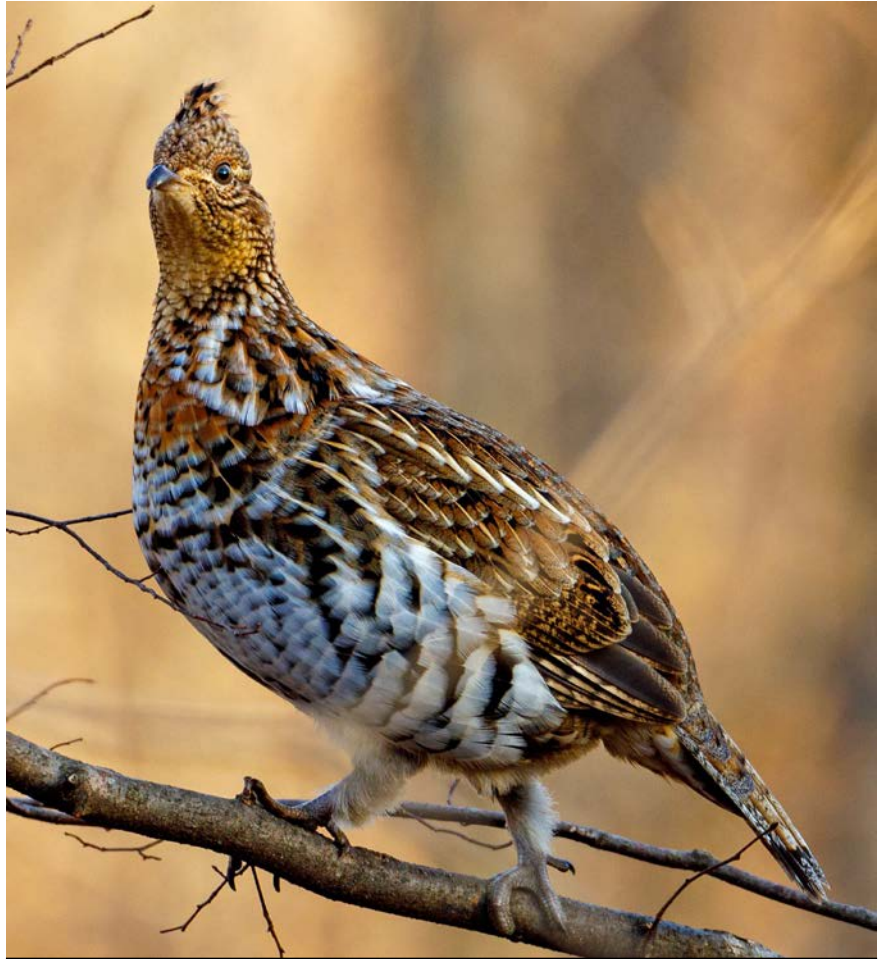
January 12, 2021 (New Albany, IN) – The Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society led a coalition of conservation groups that filed an amicus brief in the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana, related to the Houston South Vegetation Management and Restoration Project (Houston South Project) within Hoosier National Forest. The U.S. Forest Service faces a lawsuit that aims to shut down the project; RGS & AWS is not a party on the lawsuit, but the brief supports the Houston South Project and its objectives to restore habitat for ruffed grouse and other wildlife. The State of Indiana officially listed the ruffed grouse as a state endangered species on December 16, 2020.

“This filing is critical for supporting a keystone project located in the heart of Indiana’s remaining ruffed grouse habitat range,” said Brent Rudolph, RGS & AWS Chief Conservation and Legislative Officer. “The Houston South project is an important first step, but we have a long way to go in restoring ruffed grouse habitat. Young forest habitats on Indiana federal lands have declined 90% since 1986. Lawsuits and misunderstanding of the ecological importance of young forest habitat are the greatest barriers to the advancement of much-needed active forest management to sustain wildlife populations.”

Ruffed grouse are a forest-dwelling bird whose population has declined precipitously. Ecologists and wildlife experts have identified loss of young forest habitat as a significant contributor to population declines of grouse and other wildlife species. Young forest lands across Indiana have declined 71.8% since 1986, according to Forest Inventory and Assessment (FIA) data compiled by the U.S. Forest Service.

The 2006 Hoosier National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) establishes a goal for 4% to 12% of the area to consist of young forest habitat. However, there are currently no forest stands of this desired age class on the proposed Houston South Project area. The amicus brief notes that diverse wildlife populations would benefit from the Houston South Project and other efforts to reach this goal.

“Through our extensive work on deer and habitat management across North America, we know that the Houston South Project would enhance ecosystem health and the habitat components critical for the region’s white-tailed deer,” said Torin Miller, the National Deer Association’s Director of Policy. “We’re happy to join the amicus brief in supporting the Houston South Project, and we’ll continue to encourage active forest management for the benefit of deer and hunters at local and national scales.”



Ruffed grouse require young forest habitat to survive. The “old growth” forest habitat in Indiana and lack of young forest habitat is contributing to the steady decline of our grouse population. Photo by Aaron J. Hill.

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“Active forest management is critical to creating and maintaining healthy forests and quality habitat for wildlife, and we are pleased to join the amicus brief to support Indiana’s wildlife and hunting traditions that benefit from sustainable timber management,” said Jeff Crane, President of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation. “The lack of active management on the Hoosier National Forest has dire consequences for young forest wildlife species, and we are optimistic that the efforts of the hunting conservation community will lead to increased levels of habitat management for the benefit of wildlife.”

“We as hunters and anglers choose to be participants in the natural world that surrounds us. We take fulfillment, recreation, and food from the landscape and in turn we have to give back,” said Sam Shoaf, Indiana Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Board Member. “A landscape scale project like the Houston South project is just the type of undertaking that we should support. Houston South has a broad scope and stands to benefit everything from deer to pollinators and oaks to erosion issues. We owe it to the next generation of conservationists to restore our native ecosystems so that they can enjoy what we have and more.”

The U.S. Forest Service concluded nearly 15 months of environmental studies and analysis, public scoping, field review, and consultation with the Forest Plan and published the Decision Notice on the Houston South Project on February 14, 2020.

The final proposed actions under the Houston South Project were found to be in compliance with all Executive Orders, the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, National historic Preservation Act, Wilderness Act, National Forest Management Act, and all standards and guidelines established in the Forest Plan.

Unless implementation is delayed under the pending lawsuit, the project may begin any time following publication of the Decision Notice, and the work is expected to take several years to complete.

Established in 1961, the Ruffed Grouse Society is North America’s foremost conservation organization dedicated to creating healthy forests, abundant wildlife and promoting the conservation ethic.

Media Contact:

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Chief Conservation and Legislative Officer
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Email: BrentR@RuffedGrouseSociety.org



Habitat Impact: Indiana Senate Bill 389

Proposed bill would decimate habitat for outdoors enthusiasts

INDIANAPOLIS – Jan. 28, 2021 – Legislation introduced to remove protections on Indiana's scarce remaining wetlands would cripple habitat used by popular hunting and fishing species and potentially eliminate many public hunting opportunities for state residents.

Key points:

- Senate Bill 389, introduced by Sens. Chris Garten, Mark Messmer and Linda Rogers, would completely eliminate Indiana's wetland protection program.
- The state's wetland protection program is structured to conserve all the state's wetlands not otherwise protected by section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act.
- If this legislation is passed in its current form, hundreds of thousands of acres of wetlands would be at risk of unmitigated draining and filling.
- Indiana's wetlands support nearly all of the state's economically significant game species and 79 species of greatest conservation need according to Indiana's Wildlife Action Plan.
- Indiana has lost 85% of its wetlands over the last 200 years as result of human development.
- Indiana's wetlands and all the services they provide help support an outdoor economy valued at over \$15 billion per year.
- A handful of landowner disputes over wetland regulatory decisions is no reason to completely scrap a statewide program that ensures the long-term protection of the state's already-limited wetland resources.

Wetland facts:

- More than 900 species of wildlife, including more than one-third of the United States' threatened and endangered species, rely on wetlands.
- Wetlands reduce the intensity of floods by storing and then slowing the release of water, minimizing damage to surrounding areas.
- Wetlands filter sediment and other contaminants from water. Some wetland plants accumulate heavy metals in their tissues at 100,000 times the concentration in the surrounding water.
- The 38 waterfowl species in North America rely on all types and sizes of wetlands. Waterfowl hunting and watching is a recreational activity for millions of Americans.

Ducks Unlimited Inc. is the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving North America's continually disappearing waterfowl habitats. Established in 1937, Ducks Unlimited has conserved nearly 15 million acres across North America thanks to contributions from more than a million supporters across the continent. DU has conserved 30,000 acres in Indiana. Guided by science and dedicated to program efficiency, DU works toward the vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever. For more information on our work, visit www.ducks.org.

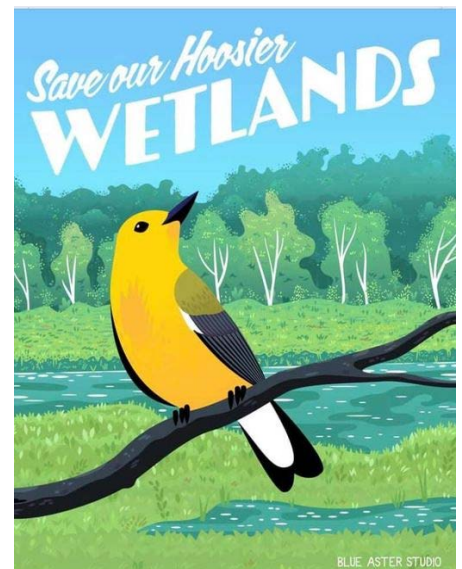
Media Contact:

Chris Sebastian, Public Affairs Coordinator

Ducks Unlimited

Phone: 734-649-4680

Email: csebastian@ducks.org



HOW Member News

Phil Seng Caps Off Great Deer Season

HOW Vice Past President Phil Seng was a bit bummed-out during the early deer hunting season this year, ever since he found two very nice bucks dead on his property with their antlers locked-up. The larger buck was one that he had been scouting in the late summer and was hoping to harvest during the archery season. We told his story in the Sept/Oct issue of *The Blade* if you would like to go back and re-read it.

Luckily for Phil, there were plenty of other deer in the woods, just like there are lots of fish in the sea! We asked him how his deer season went after the initial disappointment of finding those dead deer.

“I actually had a great deer season after all,” said Seng. “I lost those two 8-pointers that had gotten locked together, but I saw two other really nice bucks during bow season. Then I was able to get this very nice 10-pointer with my crossbow.” A very nice buck!

“I also shot a doe on our place during gun season and another doe at the Potato Creek State Park reduction hunt. The best part was all three deer were heart shots,” he explained. Heart-shot deer don’t run far, and meat loss is minimized.



“Check out the photo showing the massive slice in the heart from that crossbow bolt,” Seng said. “I use Spitfire expandable broadheads, and I am really impressed with them.” Great job, Phil!

Above: Phil Seng poses with the trophy deer he harvested with his crossbow near Walkerton, Indiana in November. **Left:** Not for the squeamish – a closeup image of the heart from Seng’s buck showing the damage from the crossbow bolt’s broadhead. Photos courtesy of Phil Seng.



Culler Discovers Great Birding at Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area

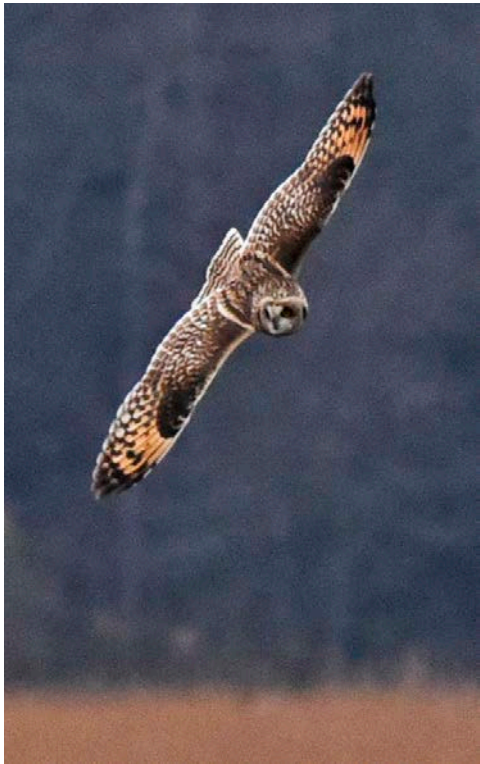
HOW board member Marilyn Culler loves getting outside with her camera, and neither pandemic woes nor winter weather was going to stop her. Here is a short description and photos from one of her recent trips:

“I’ve found more time for photography and birdwatching during the pandemic,” said Culler. “As I made some inquiries about birding spots in western Indiana, Goose Pond came up repeatedly.”

“Lured by the prospect of seeing owls, hawks and cranes, I signed up for an afternoon birdwatching trip with the Indiana Audubon Society in late November. It was great, and a few weeks later I found myself exploring the property on my own.”

“During my trips to Goose Pond, I was introduced to short-eared owls and got re-acquainted with northern harriers and sandhill cranes,” she continued. “Trumpeter swans, red-tailed hawks, geese, ducks and a plethora of other birds are standard fare for birdwatchers at this property. According to the DNR website, over 260 species of birds have been sighted at Goose Pond FWA.”

“Goose Pond is located just south of



Linton, Indiana, only 90 minutes from Greencastle. The property includes over 9,000 acres of prairie and marsh habitat. My initial trip began at the Visitor Center’s observation deck, overlooking the fields and wetlands to the north. The IAS guide was very knowledgeable about what we might see. Maps and suggestions for bird sightings are available at the Visitor’s Center. On my second visit, I found the suggestions of places to see birds a great starting point for exploring.”

“I’m still wondering why I hadn’t made it to Goose Pond before now. Someday, I’ll see a whooping crane. For now, all I can say is, “Go! Plan your visit – the area is remote. Park only in designated areas or risk getting ticketed. The Visitor’s Center has restrooms. Take food – dining in Linton during the pandemic is limited.”

Top: Sandhill cranes are a common sight in the nearby fields. **Above Left:** A short-eared owl soars above the prairie grass, looking for dinner. **Above Right:** A northern harrier hunts mice and voles. Marilyn Culler photos.

Bramwell, Beagles and Bunnies

Current HOW board member (and past president) Rick Bramwell likes dogs, but the beagle breed is his favorite. He also likes hunting rabbits, and beagles and bunnies go together like peanut butter and jelly. Here is what he had to say about a recent rabbit hunt:

“I had promised to take Dave Schlabaugh and his 16-year-old son Jonathan rabbit hunting,” reported Bramwell. “I got my gear together and we headed for the briar patch.”

“The dogs, including a stray I named Lady, soon had a bunny up and running,” he continued. “The cottontail circled a couple of times without us getting a shot. Jonathan unloaded his single-shot 410 to come down a steep hill. Just as he got to the bottom, the other dog, Tramp, jumped a rabbit that presented an easy shot – as long as your gun was loaded. That rabbit holed-up on the persistent dog.”

“Finally, Tramp jumped the main course of a tasty meal at the top of a hill. I hurried up the steep slope to get in position. The excitement of the hunt had stirred my adrenaline. Breathing in the cold air that was blowing in my face was akin to Popeye gulping down a can of spinach. I felt great.”

“My young friend and Tramp had a rabbit going, Jonathan fired and missed. He, his dad, and I were standing together when the dog pushed a rabbit out to the edge of a junk pile. The rabbit stopped and sat up. The teen hunter aimed and just a split-second before his gun discharged, the bunny turned back. The shot landed where the rabbit had been.”

“Tramp chased the same rabbit my way and I shot it. When my Remington reported, the stray beagle ran and hid under the truck Dave senior had just pulled up in. The dog is gun shy and free to anyone who wants her. She is young.”

“The wind increased and I was dressed a little light. I stood guard facing a log pile where the rabbit my beagle was running would soon arrive. I must have been looking the wrong way for just a second, for the dog’s nose does not lie. Tramp worked hard to dislodge the rabbit from this safe fortress.”



“The rabbit took the dog on a very long run along a gravel pit hillside, across a creek, and into a big weed patch. The sun was on the horizon and my two friends had gone to their truck. My intent was to catch up with the dog and put him on my leash.”

“After crossing the creek culvert, I could faintly hear the dog. As I tried to get a fix on Tramp’s location his bawls were becoming louder. The rabbit was headed my way and was not likely to swim the creek. He would cross the little bridge.”

“Just as that thought came to mind the rabbit came fast down the hill. He was almost out of range and across the little bridge when I fired. To my surprise, the rabbit rolled. I retrieved my prize and waited for my dog. I let him smell the cottontail. I told him he was a good boy and patted him on the back.”

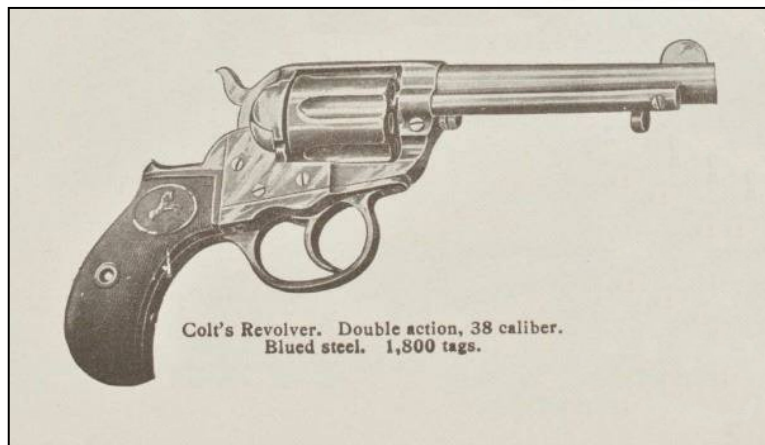
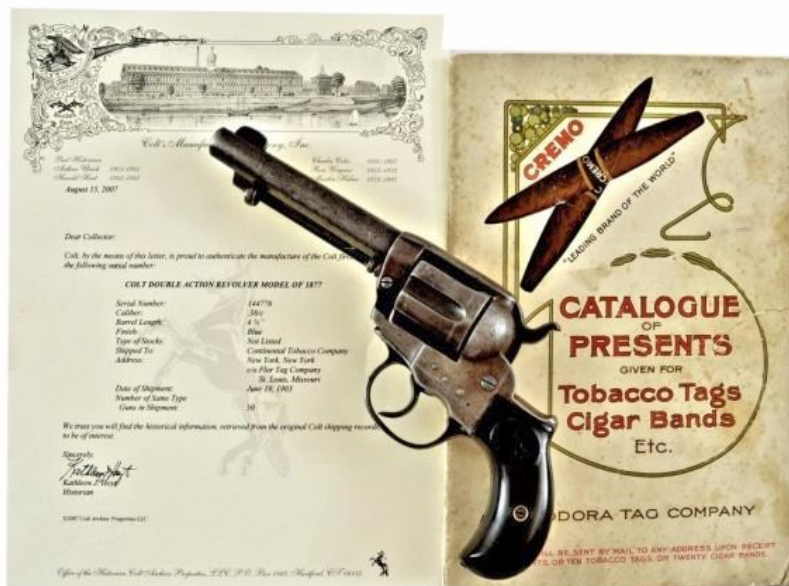
“With the dog leashed, we headed down a long lane back to my truck. I got a good dose of the elixir I needed from Mother Nature.”

Alan Garbers Purchases Old Colt Pistol, Discovers it has a Very Cool History

HOW past president Alan Garbers is a firearms enthusiast. He likes collecting guns, shooting them and writing about them. He is even active in “Cowboy Action Shooting” competitions, both in his new home state of Arizona and back here in Indiana when he lived here. When he recently acquired an old Colt pistol, he got a real surprise when he learned about its interesting history. Here is his story:

“I purchased a M1877 Colt Lightning revolver from a collector over a year ago,” explained Garbers. “I was hoping it was a ‘tobacco gun’. I finally received the Colt archives letter on it, and it turns out it is!”

“These guns were given out as premiums back in the early 1900s by tobacco companies. In that time period, tobacco came in ‘twists’ and counterfeit tobacco was common. Tobacco companies would place a metal tag in/on the twist to assure the buyer they were getting what they paid



for – quality tobacco. If the buyer saved their tags, they could trade them in for goods, ranging from toiletry items to furniture and firearms (much like trading stamps back in the 60s and 70s). It took 1,800 tags to get this revolver. Imagine the amount of tobacco you would have to use to get 1,800 tags!”

“From what I can find, the Floradora Company was contracted as the clearinghouse to process the tags and coupons from the various tobacco companies. I would assume Floradora went to Colt and asked, hey, what

can I get reasonably priced to use as a premium?”

“Colt: Well, we have these revolvers that have a cool name. If you promise to buy X amount every year we can let you have them for Y cost. Floradora agreed. Then Colt management must have called down to the production floor and said: Hey, don't scrap that tooling just yet...”

Garbers commented that someone asked whether or not being a ‘Tobacco Gun’ raises the value of the piece, and he had a good answer: “I have no idea, but I think it’s cool!” We agree.

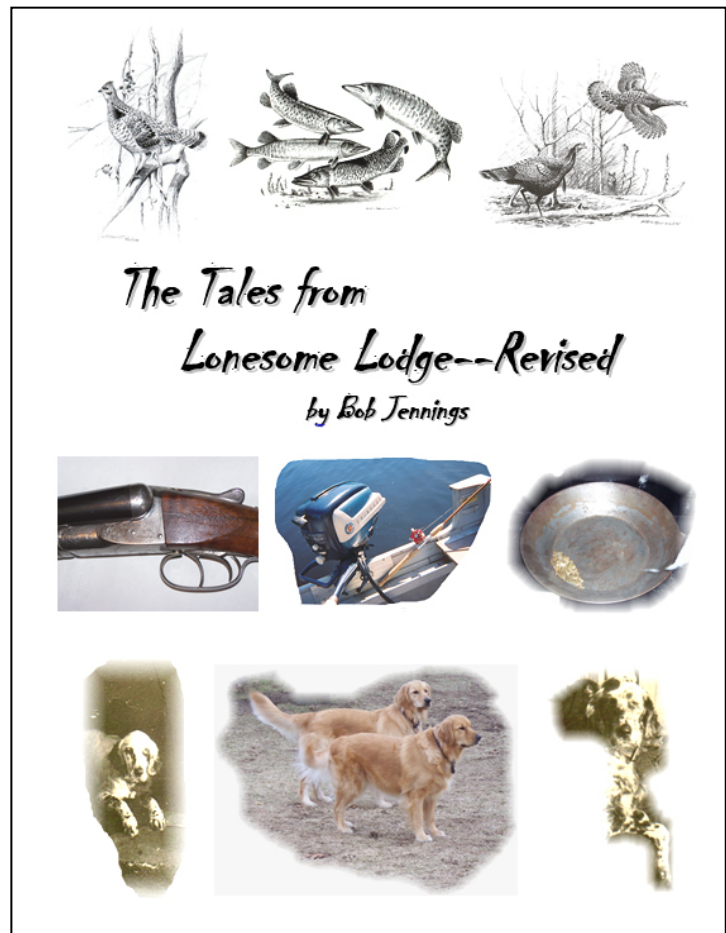


Jennings Self-Publishes Another New Book

HOW member Bob Jennings recently finished another book project by revising his Lonesome Lodge stories and adding some new content. The new book is titled: *The Tales from Lonesome Lodge – Revised*. This heavy book measures slightly over 8¼” X 10¾” and features over 350 pages of fictional stories, photos and sketches.

“These tales are accounts of my immortalized and fictional characters and their adventures at a place somewhere up north called Lonesome Lodge...on a lake called NISATO...in a by-gone era,” said Jennings.

Jennings self-published this book and had it printed and bound through the online company DOCUCopies.com, and he is very happy with their work. After he received his proof copy he ordered a quantity of books and they were printed, bound and shipped within nine days!



If any HOW members are interested, Jennings is offering copies of the book for \$25. Send him an email if interested (jenningsr500@gmail.com) and he can arrange to get the book to you. Otherwise he is planning to be at next year's HOW conference.

Membership Changes and Member Contact Info

The following information reflects recent HOW membership status changes. Please make a note of it:

Joe Jansen: Changed to **Active** membership from **Associate**.
Ray McCune: Changed to **Associate** membership from **Active**.
Cindy Stites: Changed to **Active** membership from **Associate**.

The following HOW members have updated contact information:

Gene Clifford: New email address: hoosierhunter7@gmail.com
Larry LaGrange: New mailing address: 1833 Evans Ln., Jasper, IN 47546

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 Buck Knives

The Veggie-Raiding Groundhog – Hated by Gardeners



Close-up



Original



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was evidently too easy, since it was correctly identified by a total of 14 HOW members! Gene Clifford, Phil Cox, Mike Lunsford, Jack Spaulding, Phil

Seng, Mike Schoonveld, Vikki Trout, Bill Keaton, Troy McCormick, Rich Creason, Alan Garbers, Gary Redmon, Dave Hoffman and John Maxwell all identified it. When we drew a name at random for the **Falcon Guides** prize package, Phil Cox was the winner. Congrats, Phil! Our friend Ryan Meyer from Falcon Guides will send the prize directly to you.

As you can see in the photo to above, the mystery creature for this issue was a **Groundhog** (*Marmota monax*), also known as a woodchuck. Groundhogs are one of the arch-enemies of local gardeners is the groundhog. These pesky rodents are also called woodchucks, whistle-pigs, ground-pigs and even Canada marmots. They are actually part of the marmot family, and they are common throughout the eastern United States and Canada.

Groundhogs are a genuine pest around flower gardens and vegetable gardens. Since they are mostly vegetarians, they eat grass, clover and all kinds of tender leaves and young plants. In fact, they can eat more than a pound of vegetation per day during the summer. A favorite food is leaves from the mulberry tree. Surprisingly, groundhogs have good climbing skills and they can climb mulberry trees to reach the tasty leaves. But they also like the leaves and stems of many flowers in the flower garden, like zinnias, black-eyed susans, coneflowers and others. They are also destructive in the vegetable garden. Bean plants, peppers, lettuce, tomatoes – almost nothing is safe from hungry groundhogs.

For this issue, our friends at **Buck Knives** 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 Buck 110 Slim Pro knife. See below for more info on the prize and this issue’s nature question.



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

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

This creature may be hard to identify, mainly because it might look like more than one kind of animal. But we’ll see. Do you know of any creatures that look like this? As usual, you will have to identify the exact species. If you think it’s a species of sparrow, for example, go ahead and guess “chipping sparrow” (of course, it’s not a bird). If you think you know the answer, send an email to thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you’re right, you will be entered in this issue’s prize drawing!



As mentioned, **Buck Knives** (www.buckknives.com) has donated a great new knife for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. The winner gets a Buck 110 Slim Pro knife with an MSRP of \$94. If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw a winner at random from the correct entries. 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.

Mossberg 940 JM Pro Competition Shotgun Wins 2021 NRA Golden Bullseye Award

North Haven, CT – Mossberg's newest autoloader, the 940 JM Pro competition shotgun, has been recognized as the 2021 Shooting Illustrated Shotgun of the Year, presented by the National Rifle Association (NRA) Publications. Now in their 19th year, the NRA Publications Golden Bullseye Awards acknowledge the finest products available in the shooting sports and this year's winners will be honored during the 2021 NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits in Houston, Texas.

Golden Bullseye Award winners are selected by a seven-member committee of editors, graphic designers and veteran members of the NRA publications staff, representing more than a century of collective experience in the shooting and hunting industry. To qualify for consideration, a product must have been recently introduced and available to consumers; used or tested by a staff member or regular contributor to the magazine; reliable, innovative and meeting or exceeding the evaluator's expectation. Completing the criteria for award selection are the perceived value of the product to the purchaser and that the product is styled in a manner befitting the shooting and hunting industry, and its enthusiasts.



MOSSBERG®

The result of two years of development alongside world champion shooters, Jerry and Lena Miculek, the Mossberg 940 JM Pro was designed with the needs of today's competitive shooter in mind. At the core of this competition-ready 12 gauge is a durable gas system that will run for many rounds before cleaning and reliably cycle 2 ¾ or 3-inch shells. Key features include an enlarged loading port to allow quad loads into the magazine tube; redesigned elevator and shell catch to eliminate common pinch-points; slim profile forend and user-configurable stock for length-of-pull, drop and cast; HIVIZ® fiber optic sight system; and extended Briley® choke tubes.

"The 940 JM Pro competition shotgun is the culmination of the hands-on experience of world-class shooters, Jerry and Lena, along with the engineering and manufacturing expertise of the Mossberg team," commented John MacLellan, Vice President of Sales and Marketing. "We knew that we had a winner with the 940 but to be recognized with a Golden Bullseye Award for the best new shotgun is a great honor."

HIVIZ® is a registered trademark of HIVIZ LLC. Briley® is a trademark of Briley Manufacturing Company.

About O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.

Founded in 1919, O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc., is the oldest family-owned firearms manufacturer in America, and is the largest pump-action shotgun manufacturer in the world. Celebrating 100 years of innovation, Mossberg leads the industry with over 100 design and utility patents to its credit and stands as the first ISO 9001 Certified long-gun manufacturer. Complete information on commercial, special purpose, law enforcement and military shotguns, rifles, handguns and accessories are available at www.mossberg.com or by calling 1-800-363-3555. Mossberg can also be found on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.



Media Contact: For more information or additional images, please contact: Linda Powell, Director of Media Relations, phone: 336-209-1416, email: LPowell@mossberg.com.

HOW Supporting Member News

Henry Repeating Arms Expands Line of Specialized Hunting Rifles & Shotguns

Rice Lake, WI – As part of an ongoing effort to give customers more options when choosing to “Hunt With A Henry,” Henry Repeating Arms is pleased to announce four new models that fit the needs of modern hunters, whether in pursuit of small game or large, or while chasing feather or fur.

The [Lever Action Magnum Express .22 Magnum](#) (H001ME) is a purpose-built small game and varmint hunting rifle with a feature set catered towards use with magnified optics. This rifle is void of any iron sights, so the receiver cover is topped with a Picatinny scope base to accept a wide variety of scope rings. Because a scope sits up higher on the rifle than barrel-mounted iron sights, the buttstock is shaped with a Monte Carlo style for a higher cheek weld and more natural shooting position. A rubber recoil pad is added for additional stability.



By popular demand, the [Lever Action X Model .30-30](#) (H009X) is the newest entry in Henry’s X Model line of modern, feature-packed lever actions first introduced in January 2020. Most notably, this new model features full synthetic furniture with integrated sling swivel studs, Picatinny and M-Lok accessory slots, and an industry-standard 5/8x24 threaded barrel to accept a suppressor or other muzzle device. The rifle is topped with fiber optic sights, and the blued steel receiver is drilled and tapped for optional scope use.



Borrowing elements from Jeff Cooper’s scout rifle concept, the [All-Weather Picatinny Rail .45-70 Side Gate](#) (H010GAWP) is topped with an extended section of Picatinny rail for mounting a scope further forward on the barrel to free up more peripheral vision and make for quicker target acquisition. The rail also includes a peep sight that is fully adjustable for windage and elevation. Henry’s All-Weather finish consists of a satin hard chrome plating on most metal surfaces and specially treated hardwood stocks for temperature and moisture resilience.



For the dedicated turkey hunter, Henry is now offering the 12-gauge [Single Shot Turkey Camo Shotgun](#) (H015T-12) fully decked out in Mossy Oak Obsession camouflage. In addition to the full-coverage camouflage, this shotgun comes with a removable turkey choke to extend the effective range, fiber optic sights, and a drilled and tapped barrel for optional optics mounting. To help mitigate some of the recoil associated with firing 3 ½” 12-gauge shells from a lightweight single shot platform, the pistol gripped buttstock is capped with a soft rubber recoil pad.



“I can’t recall a more aggressive time of growth as far as the number of new releases and the frequency by which we release them is concerned,” states Henry Repeating Arms President and Owner Anthony Imperato. “We are very proud to present hunters with an ever-increasing number of American-made choices when they go to purchase a rifle or shotgun for an upcoming season, and we’re just getting started for this year.”

Media Contact: Please contact Communications Director Dan Clayton-Luce at Henry for more info or for additional product images. Phone: 919-818-2052, email: dan@henryusa.com.



HOW Supporting Member News

Enter the BoatUS Foundation and Berkley \$15,000 Recast & Recycle Contest



BoatUS aims to increase fishing line and soft bait recycling by tapping the public for ideas.

Annapolis, MD – Have you ever wondered how old, discarded fishing line is recycled and reused? You may be surprised to learn that turning fishing line into new products is labor intensive, requiring a series of workers to comb through, sort, clean, remove hooks and weights, and separate out miles of encrusted debris in entangled fishing line. There also aren't any recycling programs for fishing related materials like soft baits. There just has to be a better way.

The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water and Berkley have teamed up for a year-long **Recast and Recycle** Contest to seek out new ideas and improvements to the process, new recycled product ideas, or offer a technology breakthrough for the current process that will increase the volume of line and soft baits that are recycled. A total of \$30,000 in prize money is at stake for any boater, angler, armchair technologist, team, student or anyone willing to submit a contest entry now through May 14, 2021.

“Whether it’s monofilament line, braided line or soft baits, we want there to be a sustainable, large-scale solution to keeping line out of our waters and landfills where it can remain a problem for birds and wildlife,” said BoatUS Foundation Director of Outreach Alanna Keating. “We want to know how to make the process better. There’s no limit on the possibilities, but keep in mind that judges will add weight to contest submissions that actually work, are practical, innovative, and have the potential to have a significant impact. We really don’t know where a breakthrough could materialize.”

The first-place prize is \$15,000, second place receives \$10,000, and \$5,000 will be awarded for third place. Contest submissions can address any part of the process (or multiple parts) of taking fishing gear from end of life to a new life. Professionals, amateurs and students are all encouraged to apply, as are school teams and groups. Contest entries can be submitted with as little as a link to a video demonstration of the idea or one-page graphic summary. Videos are limited to four minutes.



Good ideas on how to recycle soft baits and old fishing line could be worth big money. There's \$30,000 in cash prizes at stake in the BoatUS & Berkley **Recast and Recycle** contest.

Contest rules and conditions, details on the current recycling process and videos on how various plastics and soft baits are recycled can be found at the **Recast and Recycle** website [BoatUS.org/contest](https://boatus.org/contest).

Have an innovative idea for recycling used fishing line and soft baits? There’s \$30,000 in cash prizes at stake in the **Recast and Recycle** contest to find a second life for recreational fishing gear <https://bit.ly/3hdNpph> @BoatUSFoundation, @BerkleyFishing, #recycle, #repurpose, #fishing.

Media Contact:

D. Scott Croft

Vice President – Public Affairs

Phone: 703-461-2864, email: SCroft@BoatUS.com

BoatUS – Boat Owners Association of the United States

HOW Supporting Member News

Buck Knives Introduces New Products

New High End Hunting and EDC Available in March

Post Falls, ID: January 20, 2021 – With a dedication to providing high performance products of uncompromising quality, Buck Knives is excited to introduce a variety of new knives to their lineup this year, including an upgrade to famous classics and a bolster lock automatic.

Pro 100 Series Fixed Blades

The classic 100 Series hunting knives, including the famous 119 Special, received a serious upgrade with the addition of S35VN steel and OD green canvas Micarta handles. The 102 Buck Woodsman, 103 Skinner, 105 Pathfinder, 119 Special and 120 General are now offered with this Pro Level upgrade. Made in the USA, priced from \$160-\$250 MSRP.

“This collection of knives has proven to be the bedrock of our product line for the past 50-80 years, proving the designs are functionally efficient and aesthetically timeless. To further maximize performance and responding to customer demand, we endeavored to provide the best of both worlds in this upgrade with premium steel and a resiliently attractive Micarta handle to create the next generation of classics,” said Chris Bourassa, Director of Marketing and Product Development for Buck Knives.

New Assisted and Automatic Opening Paradigms

Buck’s Shift Mechanism™ bolster locking technology is being reintroduced on the new 590 Paradigm assisted opening folder and 591 Paradigm Shift automatic. Each Paradigm is redesigned with sleek lines, superior S35VN blades, G10 handles and Cerakote® coated bolsters. Available in black or brown, each model is made in the USA. \$225 and \$250 MSRP.

417 Budgie

The Budgie framelocks feature a stout, two inch S35VN blade and G10 handles. This small EDC is packed with big features, including a large thumb hole for easy opening, a lanyard loop, belt clip and two color offerings. Made in the USA, the Budgie’s are \$100 MSRP.

EDC Folders

Available now, these new EDC’s mix in modern, high tech designs with appealing price points. New ball bearing flippers include the 251 Langford with G10 handles and sleek profile, the 259 Haxby, a smooth, contoured knife with carbon fiber handles, and the 256 Decatur in either a wood or G10 handle. The 254 Odessa is an all stainless steel framelock while the 252 Trunk is Buck’s first cleaver knife. The Trunk is available in black or tan G10. Each model features 7Cr steel and is available now (imported). \$30-\$54 MSRP.



“Buck Knives continues to focus our energies toward products that meet a need, deliver exceptional performance, and maintain the underlying craftsmanship and authenticity our organization has stood on since 1902. We believe this class of everyday carry products communicates value, performance, and a level of innovation few can match and our customers will welcome,” said Bourassa. Each Buck knife is guaranteed for life by Buck’s respected Forever Warranty.

Media Contact:

Stephanie Young, Marketing & Communications Manager

Phone: 208-262-0500 (ext 209), email: syoung@buckknives.com

HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Aquateko International - www.aquateko.com
Artrip Float Company - www.artripfloatcompany.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
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
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 Destination Development Corporation - www.visitindiana.com
Indiana Dunes Tourism - www.indianadunes.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
Sportsman Magazine - www.sportsman-mag.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

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

Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

Cancelled due to Covid-19

Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

Cancelled due to Covid-19

HOW 2021 Annual Conference:

(www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org)

Turkey Run Inn, Turkey Run State Park
Parke County, IN

Cancelled due to Covid-19

POMA 2021 Annual Conference:

(www.professionalloutdoormedia.org)

Franklin, TN

June 15-17, 2021

OWAA 2021 Annual Conference:

(www.owaa.org)

Jay Peak Resort, VT

July 9-12, 2021

AGLOW 2021 Annual Conference:

(www.aglowinfo.org)

Gaylord, MI

September 12-17, 2021

Indianapolis Fall Boat & RV Show:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

September 24-26, 2021

SEOPA 2021 Annual Conference:

(www.seopa.org)

Glade Springs Resort, WV

October 6-9, 2021

NOTE:

Because of Covid-19, all events are tentative. Please check with the websites and/or organizations listed as the dates get closer to make sure each event is still taking place.

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*.