

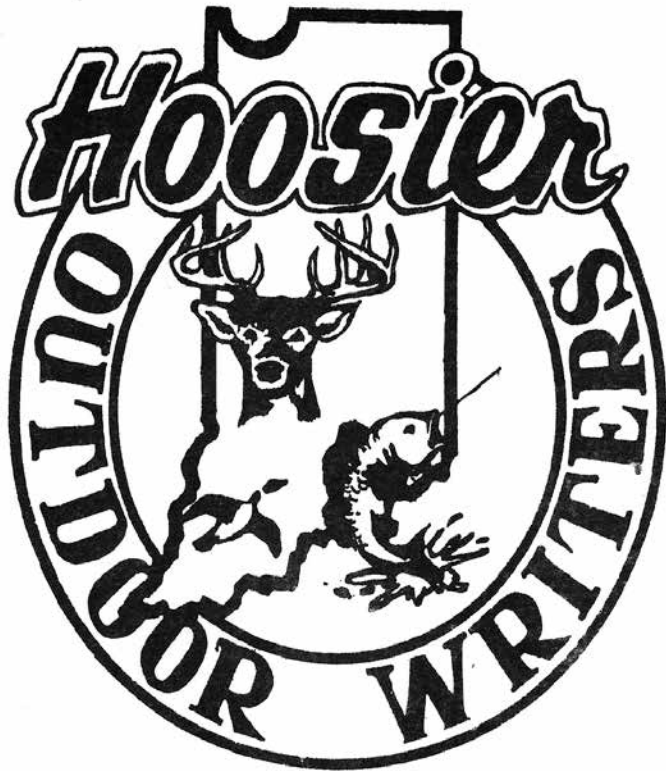
The Blade

May - June 2021

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Blue-headed Vireo During Spring Migration", 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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2022

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Ken McBroom – 2021
Bob Sawtelle – 2021
Marilyn Culler – 2022
John Maxwell – 2022
Troy McCormick – 2022

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***On the cover:** A tiny blue-headed vireo stopped for a moment during the spring migration to check out the photographer. The unconcerned bird then went about the serious business of searching for tasty insects along the tree branch and among the cracks in the bark. Photo by Tom Berg.*

President's Message

by Kenny Bayless (*The Redneck Quaker*)

Mushroom Hunting

As mid-April approaches in Central Indiana, folks become anxious to hit the woods in search of nature's tasty treat, the morel mushroom. Mother Nature can play games with changing weather patterns, though. The morel doesn't like cold weather and will stay in bed if it turns too cold.

This year, the weather showed promise of a good mushroom season in early April. It warmed up for about a week and some rare gray mushrooms stuck their heads up enough to be found. The hunt was on with the hardcore mushroom hunters.

The next week Mother Nature lost her patience and turned the trees and ground white with snow. As a rule of thumb, if there's a cold snap when the mushrooms start up, it will kill off any future growth.

In the first week of May, and my wife Jerrilynn said it was time to go to the hunting cabin in Parke County and try our luck. There had been some mushrooms found in Vigo County and the cabin area is north, a few miles down Sugar Creek from Turkey Run State Park. Mushrooms usually appear a couple of weeks later in Parke County.

Lisa Yowell, one of Jerrilynn's best friends, loves the outdoors just about as much as her golden retriever, Luka. We decided to take our visiting Labrador retriever, Pine, along as well so both dogs could romp in the woods.

Pine is being raised as a potential guide or service dog for a non-profit agency in Kansas, KSDS, Inc. The dogs are given to people in need of assistance. All 12 dogs we've raised for KSDS had their day racing up and down the hills of Parke County, splashing in the stream and just being puppies.

Once we reached the cabin, the mushroom race was on to see who could find the most and the biggest. We visited reliable patches and scouted between them for new ones. As the girls were picking mushrooms I spotted a good looking mayapple patch. Mayapples tend to grow about a foot tall with big leaves and it makes it hard to find the mushrooms hiding beneath them.



My natural instincts kicked in from my eyes zooming in on a yellow growth amongst the mayapples, about eight feet away. Yep, you guessed it right; it was a fresh yellow morel that stood a full eight inches tall and as round as a tennis ball. I announced to the girls, "I'm the winner".

At the end of the day both girls found just under 20 good-sized mushrooms. We enjoyed a healthy walk of about three miles while enjoying the outdoors. Pictured are Lisa on the left and Jerrilynn on the right.



The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents and Memorial Section

HOW Extends a Warm Welcome to our Growing Ranks of Outdoor Communicators:

JB Brindle (Active)
Indianapolis, IN
Sponsor: Tom Berg

Lane Laughner (Associate)
Lafayette, IN
Sponsor: Don Cranfill

Mongo Attachments (Supporting)
Noblesville, IN
Sponsor: Don Cranfill

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 Awards-In-Craft Winner

1st Place in the Writing Contest (General Outdoors category) – Under 1000 Words

“Resonant Over Decades”

by Phil Bloom

Early ecologist’s message worth revisiting on Earth Day 2020

Challenge lists are nothing new to social media, but they seem to have flourished in recent weeks as COVID-19 has us searching for ways to stay connected while physically apart.

People are posting lists of concerts they’ve attended or jobs they’ve had or places they’ve visited, and then encouraging others to play along.

Favorite books were a topic that appeared recently on my Facebook newsfeed.

Since two-thirds of my 40-year career as a professional journalist was spent reporting on conservation and outdoor issues, it didn’t take much thought to put “A Sand County Almanac” at the top of my book list.

Written by Aldo Leopold, “Sand County” is a collection of essays drawn from observations at an abandoned farm he acquired in south central Wisconsin.

“There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. These essays are the delights and dilemmas of one who cannot,” he wrote.

Leopold acknowledges personal bias, although he approaches topics with a mixed perspective of a forester, scientist, ecologist, hunter, ecologist, college professor, and landowner.

He juggled teaching at the University of Wisconsin with weekends in the country, where he and his family toiled to restore their depleted patch of land. A chicken coop that became known as The Shack served as their living quarters.

Leopold spent more than a decade polishing the essays until the manuscript was accepted by Oxford University Press on April 14, 1948. A week later, Leopold died of a heart attack fighting a brush fire on a neighboring property.

The enduring literary gift he left behind has become, by all accounts, a conservation classic that ranks alongside Rachel Carson’s “Silent Spring” and Henry David Thoreau’s “Walden.” It has been translated into 14 languages and sold more than 2 million copies.

Those numbers alone are testament to Leopold’s timeless and timely reflections on how humans have treated – or mistreated – our earthly home.

Leopold’s writing style embodies lyrical tones in the first dozen chapters of “Sand County,” one for each month of the year. Like this passage from March:

“One swallow does not make a summer, but one skein of geese, cleaving the murk of a March thaw, is the spring. A cardinal, whistling spring to a thaw but later finding himself

mistaken, can retrieve his error by resuming his winter silence. A chipmunk emerging for a sunbath but finding a blizzard, has only to go back to bed. But a migrating goose, staking two hundred miles of black night on the chance of finding a hole in the lake, has no easy chance for retreat. His arrival carries a conviction of a prophet who has burned his bridges.”

I don’t recall how or when “Sand County” was added to my library, but there are now five copies. The most prized – safely stored away – is printed on paper made from pine trees that Leopold and his family planted on their farm in the 1930s and ’40s.

Now comes a new edition; published this spring to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

Award-winning author Barbara Kingsolver contributes a compelling introduction to this latest printing in which she calls environmentalism “a civic hand grenade” that sends people scampering to the shelter of their entrenched viewpoints.

“On one side are folks who see the world as a garden we’re entitled to reap to our best immediate advantage; on the other, those who see it as a living home in dire need of long-term protection,” wrote Kingsolver, who offers Sand County as a guide for bringing harmony between both camps. “If you’ve lost all hope of finding common language for that conversation, you might well find it here.”

Leopold waxes philosophically on a variety of topics in the second half of “Sand County” and concludes by espousing the need for “a land ethic” so that conservation becomes “a state of harmony between men and land.”

Ever the teacher, he instructs the reader to develop that land ethic by examining “each question in terms of what is ethically and esthetically right, as well as what is economically expedient. A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.”

What will our post-pandemic world look like? Will we Hoosiers have different priorities for our natural environment? How will they compare to our fellow Americans and other global citizens?

Hopefully being sequestered in our homes will bring us to an increased appreciation of the “wild things” that inspired Leopold to write:

“Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher ‘standard of living’ is worth its cost in things natural, wild, and free.”

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

For immediate release: May 10, 2021

Parasite Detected in Wild Swans in Lake County

Wildlife officials have confirmed the presence of a parasitic flatworm in wild swans from Wolf Lake. Diagnostic testing was conducted at the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

Mute swans examined by the USGS had fatal infections of the intestinal parasite *Sphaeridiotrema globulus*. This parasite causes death in many species of waterfowl, including swans, diving ducks and coots. Lead testing was also performed on the swans, and results were within the range of nontoxic background levels.

The cause of death of the Canada geese collected from the same area could not be determined, despite extensive testing. The geese tested negative for bacterial and viral infection, lead poisoning, heavy metals, salt toxicity, botulism, and toxic organic compounds. All birds tested negative for avian influenza.

“Wildlife disease investigations can be challenging, especially when multiple factors, including adverse weather conditions, may be involved,” said USGS scientist Julia Lankton. “While we could not confirm a cause of mortality for the Canada geese, we are glad that the mortality event seems to have resolved and dead birds are no longer being reported.”

Peak mortality in Canada geese was observed over a period of approximately one week in late February after a period of severe cold weather, and deaths subsided in early March. Mute swan deaths were not observed until early March.

“The DNR, together with state, federal and private partners, has been monitoring migratory bird populations in the area and mortality seems to have subsided” said Mitch Marcus, fish & wildlife health supervisor for the Indiana DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife.

The parasite that infected the swans poses no known risk to humans, pets, or the commercial poultry industry. Snails consumed by swans and other waterfowl serve as an intermediate host for the parasite. Infected birds may appear weak or unable to fly and often die. Control measures have not been developed for this parasite, and waterfowl deaths may recur on a regular basis.

Animals known or suspected to be ill should not be consumed. Anyone who sees sick or dead wildlife is encouraged to report it to the DNR via the online reporting tool at on.IN.gov/sickwildlife.

Media contact: JB Brindle, DNR Communications, phone: 317-232-4003, email: jbrindle@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 Tom Berg:

Although HOW Executive Director Tom Berg and his wife Lori often embark on specific “birding excursions”, they are always on the lookout for interesting birds even when sitting at home. As a case-in-point, one day in mid-May Lori was looking out the window into the back yard when she suddenly spotted a bright blue male **Indigo Bunting** (*Passerina cyanea*) hopping around in the grass near their bird feeders. She called to Tom and he grabbed his camera.

Surprisingly, the bird did not seem to be interested in the black oil sunflower seeds in the nearby feeder. Instead, it was intently feeding on dandelion seeds. Luckily for him, there are plenty of dandelions in our back yard!



This bird was still molting into its bright blue breeding plumage, so his feathers look a bit blotchy. We still think he is quite beautiful, though. He happily munched on dandelion seeds for about 15 or 20 minutes before moving on, and that gave Berg plenty of time to snap a few photos. These shots are his favorites of the group.

Report from Garry Burch:

HOW Region 1 Board Member Garry Burch made a recent trip to south Florida to spend some time on the beach and do a little fishing, too. Back at the dock, he saw several birds, including a big group of brown pelicans, a great blue heron, and this bright white **Snowy Egret** (*Egretta thula*). Snowy egrets have plain white feathers, but so do other egrets, such as cattle egrets and great egrets. Snowy egrets can be identified by their legs and feet – adults have black legs with bright yellow feet. The other egrets do not have this color combination. Adult snowy egrets also have a dark black beak.

“All of the birds that were on or near the dock were very friendly,” said Burch. That is not unusual in Florida, since fishermen and charter captains often throw bait minnows and fish scraps to the birds as they clean fish after a successful fishing trip. It looks like this snowy egret is waiting for a snack!



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.

Bucket List Fishing on the Detroit River

by Mike Schoonveld

There are storied locations around the country which are the places a cut above the rest. Sure, there are pheasants in Indiana, Iowa and other places, but there's no place as storied as South Dakota. Smallmouth bass are widespread, but for smallmouth aficionados, you haven't fished smallmouth until you've pitched a swimbait into the Niagara River.

I could name plenty of other of these top shelf destinations I've been lucky enough to visit as well as more that are still on my bucket list. I was able to cross one of those bucket list locations off my list in mid-May.

Walleyes are now widespread from the mid-south on up to the Canadian Shield. There are lots of places to catch them, but none so storied as the Detroit River. At 28 miles in length, it's still one of the largest flows in North America, with all the water from lakes Superior, Michigan and Huron flowing through. Couple this with an estimated 120 million walleyes in Lake Erie, many of which rely on the Detroit River as a spawning area, and the stage is set.



Mike Schoonveld (front right) and friends display a few of the walleyes they caught while fishing the Detroit River. Photo courtesy of Mike Schoonveld.

A couple of friends and I made the trip to fish with Lance Valentine, often called Professor Walleye because of his Walleye 101 series of YouTube videos, CDs and his current efforts with the Teachin' Fishin' website (www.teachinfishin.com).

The walleye fishing was very good (the white bass bite was great, too), but most important was just being there and having the opportunity to fish one of North America's "hallowed" fishing holes for walleyes.

Valentine is an active member of the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers (AGLOW) and very helpful to outdoor writers, videographers and broadcasters. If you have a media outlet for your work and the idea of fishing the Detroit River (or summer fishing on Saginaw Bay) appeals to you, contact Captain Lance Valentine via email at: walleye101@gmail.com.

Fishing Again, but Much Closer to Home!

by Dave Hoffman

Prohibited from entering Canada during the pandemic and facing the prospect of higher travel costs to Alaska, planning for our annual “Wilderness Fix” trip focused on alternative options, including the obvious. Having flown northward for a couple dozen years to North Country adventures, I had marveled at the number of lakes scrolling beneath the plane, including the third largest of the Great Lakes by area, Lake Michigan. Not exactly a wilderness area, but northern reaches of the lake are picturesque, within a day’s drive and the fishing can be phenomenal.

Heading north through Chi-Town, and then further north to the city to which my ancestors immigrated in the late 1800’s. It’s become customary to pay homage to them on fishing trips by consuming the beverage which made that city famous. Further up the road past where statues of Lambeau and Lombardi guard their sacred ground, we entered Door County, Wisconsin.

Situated between the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan and extending for about 80 miles, the Door County peninsula is known for its scenic beauty, apple and cherry orchards, fish boils, picture-postcard coastal towns, and, of course, big fish. With around 300 miles of shoreline and numerous parks, Door County is an ideal retirement town and summer destination for millions of visitors. “It’s Nature’s only naturally air-conditioned peninsula,” said Captain Alex Tamble who pilots the 32-foot Baha Cruiser charter boat *Outdoorsman* out of Sturgeon Bay.

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg had recently interviewed Capt. Alex for an article on trophy fish hotspots, and passed the captain’s contact info along to me when I asked him if he had any contacts in northern Lake Michigan. The thought of replenishing the freezer with slab fillets of king salmon as well as steelhead, coho and an occasional lake trout had tremendous appeal. We booked a three-day trip!



Captain Alex kept a close eye on the boat’s electronics as the eastern sky started to brighten. Photos on this page by John Heino.

vast but calm lake which was already aglow to the east. Our destination, “The Bank Reef”, a rare and fabled structure among local fishermen that extends a few miles while the depth changes rapidly, attracting King salmon like a magnet.

Captain Alex slowed the boat and set the navigation to “auto pilot” as he leaped to help his seasoned first mate, Mason, in setting more than a dozen lines from downriggers, planer boards, and Dipsy Divers rigged with flashers and flies. We returned to the dock with bragging rights on eight big salmon and trout.

Arriving at the Sturgeon Bay marina at 2:45am, we found the *Outdoorsman* rumbling in the darkness with the soft glow of state-of-the-art navigation and fishing electronics illuminating the cabin space. Following a mandatory safety presentation, Captain Alex eased the vessel out of the marina. Passing the Coast Guard station at the end of the ship canal, we entered the



HOW board member Dave Hoffman holds a big king salmon.

Captain Alex worked the next day in his other occupation as a skilled pipefitter with extensive experience in the nuclear power industry. Being analytical and meticulous serves him well as a charter captain too, both in terms of keeping detailed fishing data and also in terms of taking great care of his boat and fishing equipment. Filling in on day two was Captain Fritz Peterson, Alex's father-in-law who "has chartered for nearly 40 years, and taught me 90% of what I know." Hundreds of colorful fishing spoons adorn the cabin of the *Janet Eileen Too*, a 36-foot Trojan Sedan sportfishing boat, and when the boat rocked due to larger swells, the lures danced and tinkled like miniature wind chimes. At the end of a day filled with humorous fishing tales, another seven hefty fish were added to the tally.

Our last day of fishing was wild! Before the morning sun had even broken the horizon, five king salmon thumped briefly in the box! The morning highlight was two sets of "triples" and remarkably, all fish were netted without a single mishap as Alex and Mason executed a masterful show of rod handling and netting. Our weary arms had cranked in a trip total of 2 coho, 8 steelhead and 28 kings! Next year's fishing adventure is already booked!

To schedule your own trip with Capt. Alex Tamble, call him at 651-210-5324 or send him an email at alextamble@yahoo.com. Also, Capt. Fritz Peterson can be reached at 920-743-7877 or www.jefishing.com.



Our last day of fishing was excellent! Left to right: HOW board member Dave Hoffman; native Hoosier and high school classmate Steve Daniel; Steve's winter fishing partner in Florida Pete Tomlinson; and professional wildlife photographer John Heino who has spent decades fishing together with Hoffman in the far North Country.

THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

John Anthony Bogucki – Age 74
Friend of HOW members and longtime
Hoosier Record Buck Coordinator



John Anthony Bogucki of North Liberty, age 74, passed away peacefully at Memorial Hospital Thursday, June 10, 2021. He was born July 25, 1946 in South Bend, the first child to the late John T. and Rita (Podemski) Bogucki. He is also preceded in death by his brother Patrick (Carolyn) Bogucki.

Left to cherish John's memory are his devoted wife, Mary Ann (Jedral) Bogucki; his four children, Danielle (Gavin) Binzer, Alyssa Calder, Alena (Jon McCullough) Bogucki, John J. Bogucki; grandchildren, Eli & Libby Calder, Cole & Emma Binzer, and Olive McCullough; his brothers, Kenneth (Laura) Bogucki, Ronald (Krys) Bogucki, and many special friends.

A 1964 graduate of Washington High School, John earned a bachelor's degree from Ball State University in 1969, before achieving his master's degree at Indiana University in 1975, and completing post-graduate classes at the University of Notre Dame in the 2000s.

A lifelong learner and natural leader, John applied those skills as a public school teacher for 43 years at South Bend Community School's former LaSalle High School and Clay High School. He was named an Indiana Wildlife Federation's Educator of the Year, and always enjoyed seeing former students in the community.

John dreamed of moving out to the country and turned a corn and soybean farm into a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat, hand-planting hundreds of fruiting, nut, and evergreen trees. An avid outdoorsman, he relished adventures across North America hunting deer, turkey, bear, antelope – filling his freezer with wild game, fishing with friends and his son.

John was an official measurer for the Boone & Crockett Club, Pope & Young Club, and was the longtime Indiana Hoosier Record Buck Program coordinator. He probably scored more animals in the state of Indiana than any other individual. The Indiana Deer Hunters Association which oversees the Hoosier Record Buck Program and Hoosier State Record Buck book is coordinating the succession of the program. John's work will continue but he will be greatly missed and our condolences go out to John's family

Visitation for John was on Thursday, June 17, 2021 at St. Joseph Funeral Home, 824 South Mayflower Road. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association in John's memory at 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231.

Condolences for the family may be made at www.sjfh.net.

HOW Member News

HOW Members Enjoy the 2021 Spring Turkey Season

Rick Bramwell (Pendleton, IN)

The following report is from HOW past president and diehard turkey hunter Rick Bramwell:

“This year’s wild turkey season opener began on a snowy Wednesday morning with Ray Novak and I set up in a ground blind,” recalled Bramwell. “Ray had just done a marvelous job calling in two gobblers who gave us head shots at 35 yards. Ray got his bird but my gun misfired.”

“The missed tom gave me another chance, albeit a quick one, and I missed again, but the gun did fire. So what happened? After the tom and hen flew off, I began to assess the situation.”

“When I packed for the trip, I took a box with eight turkey loads. These were Triple Beard, Heavy-Shot shells that were in good condition and about two years old. On my way through the garage, I grabbed another box of shells that were quite old.”

“I put one box in the driver’s door and the other in the passenger door compartments. The next morning, well before daylight, I grabbed the wrong box of shells. The old ones had corrosion, something I did not see in the dark. I believe the corrosion kept the action from fully closing with the shell not seating, causing the gun not to fire.”

“Just in case it was my gun, Ray suggested I use his. We sat the rest of the afternoon and had agreed to quit at 5:30 pm. I was disgusted, tired, and cold. With six minutes to go, two hens entered the field. We watched and hoped for the next 90 minutes that a gobbler would join them, but none did.”

“There was no quit in me; the next morning I set my alarm a little early to get the coffee going. I wanted more time to owl-hoot a couple of areas before we went to our best spot. Good intention, but no tom responded.”

“A long walk up a hill and across a powerline right-of-way brought us to where we thought a really mature gobbler came from the morning before. This tom was ganged-up on by the other two we shot at. Would he circle back and roost in the same area? We were about to find out on this record-breaking cold morning.”

“We found a well-worn trail almost by feel and entered the woods. Ray was not hunting, but he stopped and pulled out his owl hoot call. Immediately, a tom gobbled back. He was on roost about 90 yards away. Silently, Ray and I eased along a hillside and set down against a big tree. Because of heavy cloud cover, good shooting light would be slow to come.”

“Ray Novak is a great turkey caller. When he started talking turkey, the tom could not shut up. It was an instant love affair between an old gobbler and an alluring young hen. There was a slight break below us with a hen decoy at the crest. As darkness begrudgingly gave way to light, the tom flew down from his high perch on the opposite ridge and landed just below the decoy and out of sight.”

“Ray called one more time and here he came. At 31 yards the wary old bird paused. His moment of hesitation was all I needed. Sunrise was at 6:51 am and I shot the boss of the woods at 6:54 am. My bad luck had turned good. This bird had what Ray calls a ‘paint-brush beard’ that measured 1 1/2 inches with 1-1/8th inch spurs.”



Rick Bramwell smiles after harvesting this nice Indiana wild turkey in southern Indiana. Photo courtesy of Rick Bramwell.

2021 Spring Turkey Season Continued

Josh Lantz (Three Oaks, MI)

Here is a note from HOW past president and serious turkey hunter Josh Lantz:

“I couldn’t get out on opening day this year, but made plans to head down to the Smith family farm a few days after,” said Lantz. “My fiancé, April, grew up in Texas in a family of brothers who hunted, but she never had the opportunity to tag along. She was anxious to see what turkey hunting was all about, and I was eager to show her.”



Josh Lantz and his fiancé April look happy after a successful turkey hunt earlier this spring. Photo courtesy of Josh Lantz.

“Most women I know love shopping, so I wisely incorporated a trip to Bass Pro Shops into the experience, where we outfitted her head to toe in the latest ScentLok apparel. Beauty and the beast arrived at the farm a couple hours later – mid afternoon – and set up in a favored spot that’s produced a long list of memories and flopping toms over the past 25 years. Tucked into the base of a large white pine behind a small, three-panel blind, I began calling with a few soft yelps. Between calling sequences, I explained to April what we were doing and what we were hoping to see and hear. I also shared memories from past hunts. She had many interesting questions, and time passed quickly.”

“We eventually heard some distant gobbles. Some time later, I became more aggressive with my calling and a tom answered from a thick patch of CRP just north of our hide. I continued to make some soft purrs and clucks on the slate, and we soon spotted the bird emerging from the CRP into the open, disked field before us. The mature tom showed no obvious response to our

decoys or my calling. Instead, he walked slowly and casually in our direction with his head low to the dirt. It became clear that this peculiar bird had no interest in our decoys; we were simply in the right place at the right time to intercept him as he deliberately made his way toward his evening roost. There was no strutting and no looking about.”

“In all my years of turkey hunting I had never come across such a disinterested bird. He closed to within 40 yards, and given his direction of travel and impartial behavior, I decided he wasn’t coming any closer. The yelps from my mouth call were unsuccessful in getting him to stop and raise his head, so I unleashed a series of loud alarm putts. He finally stopped, raised his head, and for the first time looked in our direction. The load of copper-plated fives hit him hard, and he cartwheeled backwards and began pedaling the great bicycle in the sky toward eternal life.”

“High-fives and celebration ensued. Inspection of the bird revealed standard-fare northern Indiana spurs and a spectacularly average beard. This tom hadn’t strutted at any point during his approach, and a quick fan of his tail revealed why. It looked like the smile of a prize fighter who should be in another line of work, with more voids than anything else. This poor guy had had his butt whipped on more than one occasion, and was simply trying to get back to bed without being noticed.”

“The full story was recounted with good friends over venison tacos and Miller Lites later that evening. Though somewhat nonconventional and lacking the cat-and-mouse excitement and vocal exchanges of a more typical turkey hunt, April thoroughly enjoyed the experience and will be ready to pull the trigger on her own bird next spring. God willing.”

2021 Spring Turkey Season Continued

Vikki Trout (Jasper, IN)

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

“April 22, 2021 will be a date forever etched in my mind,” said Trout. “That marked the first day of Indiana turkey season and my late husband John and I never missed opening day – ever! So, here in southern Indiana the day began with snow; accumulating snow.”

“When I started out towards my spot, I seriously considered turning around and going back home. I thought the chance of killing a turkey that day was slim and none, and slim stayed home. However, tradition kept me going and I arrived at my location amidst falling snow and cold sleet. A cedar tree seemed to be the best bet for keeping me dry and it did a great job until a breeze knocked a huge clump of snow off the limb and down my coat, melting as it slid down my back. After the initial shock of the misfortune, I decided to move to a different location. I set up and thought if I sit, my body may be able to warm up.”

“Dawn was breaking and of course there was no gobbling anywhere. I could not use my slate (a wet slate produces about as much sound as the gobblers were producing that day!) and I relied solely on the diaphragm call.”

“Much to my amazement, I suddenly noticed movement heading towards me and sure enough, a hen was on her way. She hung around looking for me and I am sure she was angry with my presence even though she could not see me. Her aggressive purrs gave her anger away. Sitting motionless, the hen finally decided I was not worth the

trouble and I watched her as she crossed the field in snow up to her breast. She jumped up on a log and did a last look in my direction, then jumped down and vanished into the logjam. I knew she must have a nest there and that’s why she didn’t want any other birds around.”

“The snow was finally over and the sleet was dissipating. As the sun made its way through the clouds, I thought a few more clucks and purrs may entice a gobbler to my location. After all, the field was no longer covered in snow, but instead a most beautiful shade of green was cast from the clover. At 2pm, that is exactly what happened. Four longbeards came in together and three of them ran off after I took my shot. As I drove home with my prize, I could not help but think of all the times my beloved husband commented, ‘You can’t kill anything but time by staying home!’”



The snow did not last long where Vikki Trout was hunting on opening day this year, and it definitely did not stop her from bagging this fine turkey. Photo courtesy of Vikki Trout.

2021 Spring Turkey Season Continued

Phil Seng (South Bend, IN)

Here is a note from HOW vice president and serious turkey hunter Phil Seng:

“I was not able to slip the surly bonds of work for opening day of spring turkey season this year,” remembered Seng, “but I took off the first Friday of the season to spend in our little woods near Walkerton. I know an area the turkeys love in the spring, but I never know exactly where they will pick to roost. So my strategy is to get there WAY before light so they don’t see me sneaking in, and then hope I’m not too close to them when the sun comes up. So I set up against a big blowdown and waited.”

“As the first gray light of dawn awakened me (did I doze off for a few minutes?), I looked up and saw, to my dismay, two birds roosted in trees not 10 yards from my position. I couldn’t tell yet if they were toms or hens, but I knew my chances of getting busted just soared. After sitting motionless like a rock for a silent eternity (actually about 15 minutes) I was elated to finally hear a gobble that was about 70 yards away. The gobbler had no idea I was there! I let him gobble for about five minutes and then gave him a single string of soft yelps and shut up.”

“Pretty as you please he dropped straight down out of his tree. The only reason I saw him fly down was because he was backlit by a beautiful orange sunrise painted on low clouds in the distance. He landed behind a small rise, but within minutes I saw his brilliant white head come bobbing up over the hill. He never gobbled again, but he was spitting like the construction foreman I worked for in the summers of my college days – what a unique and memorable sound! Within minutes he cleared a tree at 25 yards and I was able to do my part.”



“The good news is that it all worked just like it’s supposed to and I had a nice tom ‘reduced to possession.’ The bad news is that my turkey season was over – all in about 27 minutes. When does fall archery season start?”

Phil Seng’s turkey (above) was harvested in near-record time this year. **John Martino** (left) poses with the fine central Indiana gobble that he collected outside of Kokomo. Photos courtesy of each successful hunter.

John Martino (Kokomo, IN)

This short report is from long-time turkey hunter and HOW nominating chairman John Martino:

“Out of all the outdoor activities I engage in, hunting wild turkeys is one of my favorites,” said Martino. “I had the opportunity to take two special people on the first and second days of the spring season. One is a hunter and the other is not. Unfortunately, we did not see very much.”

“Naturally, when I went alone I had toms literally attacking my decoys. Needless to say I went ahead and took one. Then later in the week I had the opportunity to help guide my son-in-law to a great gobble. So all in all, it was a good season.”

2021 Spring Turkey Season Continued

Bill Keaton (Spencer, IN)

Here is a note from HOW advisor and turkey hunting enthusiast Bill Keaton:

“As opening day of the Indiana turkey season began to approach, my excitement also began to build,” Keaton said. “This year opening day fell on April 22nd. One normally expects fairly mild weather in late April, although being prepared for the possibility of rain is a must. This year was exceptional, and from all outward appearances, not in a good way.”



“My alarm went off at 5:00am. My plan was to have a quick breakfast and head out onto the hilltop that stretched out behind our house in Jefferson County. All my preparations were made, but my excitement was quickly squelched when I looked out the window and saw four inches of snow on the ground. I checked the temperature, and it was only 29°! The weather forecast the night before called for morning temperatures in the upper thirties with a slight chance of a brief snow shower. The weatherman sure missed that forecast!”

“With my excitement gone, I argued with myself about whether or not I should even go out and attempt to hunt. I could not imagine the turkeys would be active in four inches of snow. But I decided to give it a try, so I put on some warmer clothes, picked up my gun and my gear, and headed out to hunt.”

“Legal shooting hours began at 6:55am that day, but I didn’t get out and set up until after seven. The woods were quieter than I have ever heard them with nary a bird singing, let alone a turkey gobbling. The morning before, I had heard turkeys gobbling all around me as day broke.”

“Normally, I put out an array of decoys that includes a fanning tom, two hens, and sometimes a jake. This morning I only put out a solitary hen decoy. With four inches of snow, the belly of the decoy was almost in the snow. The saving grace was that it was an absolutely beautiful morning with the heavy, wet snow pulling the cedar bows down toward the snow-covered ground.”

“I sat patiently hoping that at some point the turkeys would get active. By 10:00am I had not heard a single gobble or seen a hen, so I arbitrarily decided I would hunt until noon and then give it up. As the morning slipped away the temperatures began to warm and the snow began to dwindle away. I was still not at all optimistic!”

“At 11:00am I saw a dark spot appear beside the pond to the north of me. I picked up my binoculars and saw it was a tom turkey. He had a clear view of my solitary hen decoy and he slowly started picking the ground as he headed my way. I picked up a slate call and scratched out a few soft clucks. He raised his head, and stood there looking my direction for what seemed like an eternity. I scratched out a few more clucks. Suddenly, and to my surprise, the tom started sprinting in my direction like a track star! He ran about 100 of the 200 yards distance between us and then slowed to a fast walk. He continued walking toward my decoy until I shot him at 30 yards. As always, I was very excited. I paused a minute to thank the Lord for sending this tom to me on such an unlikely morning.”

“My tom had an 11 inch beard, 1¼ inch spurs and weighed 22½ pounds. I hung him in my cooler and waited for my wife to get home so she could take a picture. When she arrived in the early afternoon, it had warmed significantly and all the snow was gone. That evening we enjoyed a delicious roast turkey breast for dinner.”



Bill Keaton beams over the beautiful gobbler he shot on opening morning. Photo by Rita Keaton.

2021 Spring Turkey Season Continued

Garry Burch (Valparaiso, IN)

Here is a note from HOW board member and turkey hunter Garry Burch:

“My early spring was not exactly as planned,” explained Burch. “The weather was lousy and I was recovering from some major surgery. That alone slowed down my excitement for the opening of turkey season. But as I sat at home watching my facebook page light up with people I knew showing off their early season toms, I felt I was missing out.”

“Well, the weather finally allowed a chance for me to go out. I was running late – it was 9:00am. I finally felt good enough to go out and the weather was great. I told my wife Julie I was heading out turkey hunting. She agreed walking would be good for me. I wanted to just get out and sit and enjoy the spring morning with all the birds singing. I love hearing the birds and the added excitement of a gobbling tom. I picked a spot under my deer stand up against the oak tree that supported it.”

“Getting comfortable was not easy, though. I don’t bend like I used to before surgery, but I made it. All was well and relaxing. Then I remembered I was here to turkey hunt so I’d better get at it. I hadn’t heard a single bird, so I decided to try my push button call. Everything was quiet after a few yelps from a raspy sounding hen. I thought I heard a gobble, but I wasn’t sure. Was that a gobble?”

“I called again and yes, I got an answer. The tom came through the fencerow to the west and talked back, but the bird scratched around like he wasn’t going to waste his time on me. He actually walked to the north, and I thought he was gone. So I had to change to a proven call I’ve used before. I sent some yelps, then a series of kee kee calls. This is usually an autumn call, but it worked! The tom changed direction and started heading my way.”

“But would he cross the field and cover the 150 yards all the way to me? Slowly he picked his way towards my direction. I thought, is this really happening? I hunkered down more and moved the single shot shotgun so I was lined up on him. Next was judging when to pull the trigger. Last year I coached my son to get a tom from the same exact tree. What a blessing it was to share that with him. Now it was my turn.”

“When the tom got to the spot I felt was good, I pulled the trigger sending the load of #5 shot to its mark on the head of the tom. ‘Longbeard Down’ is what I texted to friends and family along with some quick pics. I was really excited. He had a 10½ inch beard and 7/8” spurs. It was my heaviest bird to date, too.”

“A few days earlier I had retired from working after 42 years, and harvesting this turkey added the icing to the retirement cake for me. I got this bird with my very first shotgun: a Stevens 940 12 gauge with a 32-inch barrel. This gun and I have walked many fields together. Now as my turkey gun I enjoy its lightness and I enjoy the birds being much closer to me. The excitement it gives me is great. It’s all about the fun!!”

Special note from Garry Burch: “Thank you to all who prayed for me. I’m doing well and the healing is coming along. I start my radiation in August to keep the cancer at bay. Thank you all for your support, and thank you, Bill.”



Garry Burch looks very happy with the gobbler he took this spring. Photo courtesy of Garry Burch.

2021 Spring Turkey Season Continued

Brandon Butler (Fayette, MO)

Here is a report from HOW past president and turkey buff Brandon Butler about his recent hunt in Nebraska:

“In the high plains of north-central Nebraska is a region known as the Sand Hills,” explained Butler. “It’s a sparse landscape of native grasses and small clusters of trees. Formed as the glaciers retreated after the last Ice Age, the area now encompasses 20,000 square miles. It is home to more cattle than people, and wildlife thrives.”

“I hit the road alone, with only my dog, Willie, as a companion. Our destination was Valentine, Nebraska; a nine hour drive from home. The original plan was to camp along the Niobrara River, but a weather report calling for consistent rain over the next three days encouraged me to drop \$60 a night on a motel. It was a good choice.”

“Friends of mine from the Nature Conservancy put me in touch with a group of deer hunters who lease land but don’t turkey hunt. I know, it’s crazy, but it worked out for me. They allowed me access to their lease to chase Merriam’s turkey, which have beautiful white-tipped feathers and are far less brilliant than their eastern cousins.”

“River bottoms are my favorite place to hunt. Being by water is part of the appeal, but the broken openness of the cover, strewn with blowdowns and washed-around brush, makes for ideal wildlife cover. At least for deer and turkey. The Niobrara River, which is a National Scenic River, offers some of the most beautiful bottomland habitat I have ever roamed.”

“My turkey hunt began with a bow in hand. I had no real expectation of shooting a bird, but I came close. I located a group of turkeys parading about in the prairie and made a stalk. I closed the distance to 40 yards before they became aware something wasn’t right with the big blob behind a lone tree. I took a 40 yard shot and missed. Someday, I hope my arrow is found, and the lucky one is intrigued by the primitive hunting tool I left behind.”



“Saturday’s sunrise marked opening day. Turkeys were all around me. From the first gobble on the roost until I pulled the trigger on the first of my two toms was about an hour and a half. I never went a second without seeing a bird and not 30 seconds without hearing one. The gobbles were constantly pouring out of the 10 or so mature males all vying for the love of a group of hens, who constantly kept clucking and yelping. I watched multiple males breed hens within 100 yards of me. It was a turkey hunting experience like none I have ever had before.”

“In Nebraska you can kill three male or bearded turkeys in the spring. Each turkey requires its own permit (\$125 each for non-residents). Two birds were enough for me, but it would have been very easy to fill all three permits in the first two hours of opening day. Granted, I was in a great spot, but the entire region is littered with turkeys.”



Dave Hoffman Really Loves Hunting for Morel Mushrooms

It's been an unusual spring for "shrooms" for HOW board member Dave Hoffman. He reported that most of the old areas that sprouted morels for him in the past have faded with time. "Perhaps it's because a neighbor now mows areas that used to accumulate leaves by the bushel," he mused. "Or maybe it's because the neighbor's lawn service now fertilizes outside of his property line. I don't know. I do know that those individuals to whom I granted permission to look for morels in the springtime – provided they share half of them with me – have not been seen for several years."

"Actually, I decided to add up the number of morels that they left on my porch over the years, as they agreed to do when I wasn't home. I came up with a grand total of zero. Therefore, I concluded that my math isn't as good as it used to be, either!"

"Having spent more time wandering aimlessly around the yard like everyone else this spring, I did find that adjacent to the decaying stumps of ash trees (resulting from the infestation of emerald



ash borers), morels began popping up. But my most significant finding was that more morels were also popping up in places where I never suspected they'd be, like a clump of them underneath a landscape bush right next to my deck. I guess it pays to randomly stumble around the yard and keep your eyes on the ground looking for the unexpected."

"And if you discover some while you are wandering, and you find yourself on my property, don't forget to leave half of them for me!"



Don Cranfill Has a New Job with a Link to Conservation and Habitat Management



HOW past president Don Cranfill is excited about his new job, and not without good reason. Besides the fact that he is no longer on the road working all the time, he actually has a bit of leisure time these days! What!?!? Yes, that means time for fishing, boating – and plenty of other fun activities! Here's what he had to say about it:

Hello all!

It's been a while since I have contributed to *The Blade*. For the last five years I have been working as a road mechanic on heavy equipment as my main gig. The hours were extremely long and made it difficult to have much of a life of adventure to write about. However, one of my clients made me a job offer I couldn't refuse. The fact they also care deeply about conservation and habitat management made the decision to switch jobs so much easier. In May, I made the leap to Mongo Attachments to tackle the role of product manager.

Mongo is a manufacturer of implements for mini and mid-sized excavators. While they have a firm grip on the construction and landscape markets, they have recently been taking the farm and habitat management crowd by storm. The attachments they build are specialized for tree and root removal, brush cutting/mulching, and contour digging - among many other things. If you are trying to remove invasive plants, clear areas for food plots, control run-off, create shooting lanes or encourage game travel, Mongo has the equipment to get the job done.

Look for a full interview in the near future on the Driftwood Outdoors Podcast which Mongo is proud to sponsor. Mongo Attachments is also excited to now be a supporting member of HOW, as well. Thanks,

Don Cranfill





Alan Garbers Likes Catfish and Cucumbers

HOW past president Alan Garbers may live in the relatively dry state of Arizona, but that doesn't mean there are no lakes nearby. He made a trip to Lake Mary near Flagstaff in early June to fish for panfish, but he caught something a bit bigger.

"This is what getting on the water at 5:00am gets you," reported Garbers. "This channel catfish weighed 28 pounds. We were fishing for crappie so I only had 6-pound test line and a tiny wire hook. Luckily, Brandon is quick with the net. The fish weighed enough that it bent the crappie net handle slightly. It also came off the hook as we got it in the boat!"

"The channel cat is in the freezer waiting for a family catfish and cucumber fry. And this lake doesn't just have big catfish, the state record northern pike came from Lake Mary, too."

Mike Schoonveld Rescues Baby Wood Duck

HOW Chairman Mike Schoonveld has a wood duck box mounted in the tree behind his house in Newton County, and every year a pair of wood ducks use it to raise their young. This year was no exception. The strange part this year, however, was that one of the woodie chicks took a detour after it left the nest. Here's what Schoonveld had to say about it:

"The baby wood ducks jumped out of the nest box the other day," he said. "One of them got lost and wandered into my pole barn. Evidently it lost its mama. It waddled through the door and almost came up to me. We caught it with a fish net and hauled it to the closest wetland and let it loose. I hope Mommy will find you soon, little guy. It wouldn't have been a good shop pet."



Membership Changes and Member Contact Info

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

JB Brindle: 3912 Washington Blvd, Indianapolis, IN 46205, phone: 317-727-1578, Email: jbrindle@dnr.IN.gov

Lane Laughner: 225 Opus Lane, Apt 207, Lafayette, IN 47905, phone: 765-650-6286, Email: lrlaughner@gmail.com

The following HOW member has updated contact information:

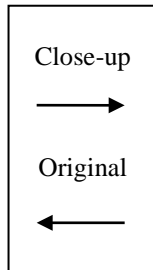
Don Cranfill: New phone: 812-369-3375 and new email address: HoosierFlyDaddy@gmail.com

Bill Keaton: New address: 7070 Vilas Road, Spencer, IN 47460 and new phone: 317-753-5535.

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 Black River Tools and Driftmaster

Red-Winged Blackbirds Defend Their Nests Fearlessly



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was evidently pretty easy, because this time it was correctly identified by a total of ten (10) HOW members. Phil Bloom, Scott Weaver, Mike Schoonveld, Mike Lunsford, Troy McCormick, Richard Hines, John Maxwell, Rich Creason, Phil Cox and Nate Mullendore were all able to identify it. When we drew a name at random for the **Hoosier Trapper Supply** prize package, Rich Creason was the lucky winner. Congratulations, Rich! Our friends at HTS will send the prize directly to you.

As you can see in the photo (above left), the mystery creature for this issue was a **Red-Winged Blackbird** (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). The bird pictured is a male, as the females are brown and have much more inconspicuous reddish marks on their shoulders. This helps them stay hidden when sitting on their nests or tending to their new hatchlings.

Red-winged blackbirds are one of the most common birds in the USA, often forming giant flocks numbering in the hundreds of thousands during migration. They nest throughout Indiana, wherever there are wetlands, marshes and fields with plenty of water nearby. Females prefer to build their nests in dense wetland vegetation that helps deter predators. Thick stands of reeds, cattails, phragmites and bulrushes are favored nest sites.

During the breeding season, male red-winged blackbirds defend their territories very vigorously. They attack all trespassers, whether they be other birds, animals, or even people! Their bright red and yellow shoulder bars help them intimidate their feathered rivals.

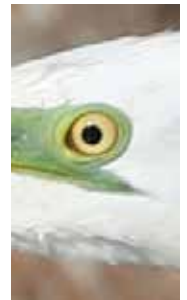
For this issue, our friends at **Black River Tools** have donated a very nice prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be a **Driftmaster** Tip Saver rod storage system, valued at \$85. See below for more info on the prize 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 found throughout the state of Indiana during certain times of the year. You are unlikely to see it in your back yard, although it is possible. 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 creatures that look like this? As usual, you will have to identify the exact species. If you think it’s a species of frog, for example, go ahead and guess “green frog” (of course, it’s not a frog). If 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, **Black River Tools** (www.blackrivertools.com) has donated a cool Driftmaster rod storage system for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. This issue’s winner will receive the versatile Driftmaster Tip Saver rod storage system. Driftmaster is one of Black River Tools’ most popular brands, and the Tip Saver is one of their best sellers. 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.

Henry Repeating Arms Raises \$30,000 for 8-Year-Old Texas Boy's Medical Treatments

Rice Lake, WI – June 25, 2021. Henry Repeating Arms, America's leading lever-action firearms manufacturer, raised a total of \$30,000 with a *Guns For Great Causes* campaign to benefit 8-year-old Kael Hamilton of Leesburg, Texas. Kael was diagnosed at the age of 5 with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), a rare and terminal genetic muscle-wasting disease with no known cure. Henry created and donated a total of 50 custom engraved "Flex For Kael" Edition Golden Boy rifles, which sold out within a matter of hours.

The Hamilton family is working with a 501(c)(3) organization to put together a customized gene therapy treatment for Kael with the hopes of fighting back against the disease or ultimately finding a cure. To begin production, the family needed to raise \$25,000, which prompted a response from Henry Repeating Arms to assist.

"We like to think that Kael has a lot of toughness to draw upon from between mountain living, the gritty streets of New York, and five Marines in the family. Not to mention that he is named after Superman," says Rick Hamilton, Kael's father. Rick is originally from Ahwahnee, California, located in the Sierra Nevada mountains, and his wife Nancy is originally from Queens, New York. Both are veterans of the United States Marine Corps and recently moved to Texas to make the doctor visits more convenient. Rick continues, "It was crazy watching how fast the rifles sold out, and we can't thank Henry Repeating Arms and their audience enough for all of the support they have given us as complete strangers."

"We have been running *Guns For Great Causes* for well over a decade, and it is now an integral part of our company's DNA. We are blessed to be able to give back by doing what we do best, which is building rifles," says Anthony Imperato, President and Owner of Henry Repeating Arms. "With the entire Henry family in his corner, Kael now has a huge cheering squad that will be there for him throughout his entire fight."



Young Kael Hamilton was diagnosed at age 5 with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and is seeking an experimental gene therapy treatment that could potentially save his life.



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

HOW Supporting Member News

Indiana's Limestone Country Loves Summer Visitors



Mitchell, IN – Indiana's Lawrence County in the south-central part of the state is better known as "Limestone Country", due to the abundance of limestone hiding just beneath the rolling hills of the countryside. This area is home to a special outdoor playground of caves, forests, rivers, Bluespring Caverns, Spring Mill State Park and much more.



Visitors to Spring Mill State Park can do a variety of fun things, including hiking the park's trails, checking out the Pioneer Village and the working grist mill there, visiting the Lakeview Activity Center and joining one of the underground boat tours at Twin Caves (Memorial Day through Labor Day). During the cave tours you are likely to see bats, blind crayfish and the endangered northern blind cavefish. The Grissom Memorial dedicated to famous Hoosier astronaut Gus Grissom is also located on the park's grounds, and it is definitely worth a visit. There is also a swimming pool near the campground, a nature center, picnic areas, shelter houses and large playgrounds for the kids.

Bluespring Caverns is a great place to visit as well, and tours of the caverns are always popular, especially when the weather is hot. Underground temperatures stay a cool 53 degrees year-round.

Tour guides pilot custom-made boats along the subterranean river in the cavern for over a mile, pointing out native rare northern blind cave fish and blind crawfish. They explain the natural forces that are yet at work creating great chambers below the rolling hills of southern Indiana.

Those who enjoy seeing our historical old covered bridges should plan a trip to nearby Williams, Indiana to see the Williams Covered Bridge. At 402 feet long, this is Indiana's longest double span covered bridge, and it is open to foot traffic only. It stretches across the East Fork of the White River, and it was built in 1884 by Joseph J. Daniels. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is a must-see for history buffs.

There are plenty of other things to see and do, too, including the Lawrence County Museum of History, Hoosier National Forest for hiking or fishing, the Hickory Ridge Horse Camp and Trail System, Salt Creek Brewery and much more.

Media Contact: Please contact Tonya Chastain at Lawrence County Tourism for more info or for other local attractions and images. Phone: 812-849-1090, email: tchastain@limestonecountry.com. Also be sure to check out www.limestonecountry.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
Mongo Attachments - www.mongoattachments.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
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

POMA 2021 Annual Conference:

(www.professionalooutdoormedia.org)

Franklin, TN

June 15-17, 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

OWAA 2021 Annual Conference:

(www.owaa.org)

Jay Peak Resort, VT

October 4-6, 2021 **New dates**

SEOPA 2021 Annual Conference:

(www.seopa.org)

Glade Springs Resort, WV

October 6-9, 2021

Ford Cincinnati Boat, Sport & Travel Show:

(www.CincySportShow.com)

Cincinnati, OH

January 14-16 & 19-23, 2022

Cincinnati Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo:

(www.CincySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

January 21-23, 2022

Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

February 18-27, 2022

Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

February 24-27, 2022

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*.