

The Blade

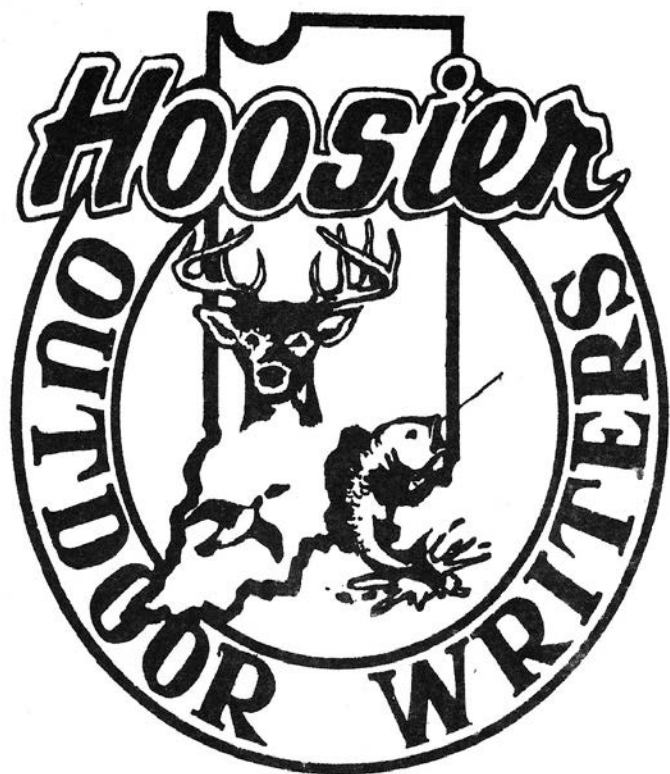
2022 Post-Conference Issue

May - June 2022

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Young Buck on the Alert", photo by Tom Berg



Hoosier Outdoor Writers

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

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Executive Council

Board Chairman

Kenny Bayless
9772 E. Stewart Ave.
Terre Haute, IN 47805
kwbayless@aol.com

President

Phil Seng
317 E. Jefferson Blvd.
Mishawaka, IN 46545
phil@djcase.com

Vice President

Jarrett Manek
7234 Old Forest Rd. SW
Corydon, IN 47112
jmanek@dnr.IN.gov

Executive Director

Tom Berg
2142 Nondorf St.
Dyer, IN 46311
director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

Advisor

Bill Keaton
7070 Vilas Rd.
Spencer, IN 47460
wbkeaton1945@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Tom Berg
2142 Nondorf St.
Dyer, IN 46311
director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

Board Members

Region 1 – Brian Waldman
2024
Region 2 – Rick Bramwell
2023
Region 3 – Mike Lunsford
2024
Region 4 – Jack Spaulding
2023

At Large:

Marilyn Culler – 2023
John Maxwell – 2023
Troy McCormick – 2023
Joe Jansen – 2024
Teena Ligman – 2024
Cindy Stites – 2024

All submissions and correspondence in regards to the newsletter should be directed to: Tom Berg (e-mail: director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org), or to Tom Berg, 2142 Nondorf St., Dyer, IN 46311. Portions of this newsletter may be reproduced only with the permission of the Hoosier Outdoor Writer's Executive Board and/or the permission of the original author or authors submitting the material. HOW website: www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org.

On the cover: A healthy young buck watches for signs of danger at the edge of a local woodlot. His antlers are just starting to grow and are still in velvet, and hopefully they will develop into an impressive rack. But even if they don't, he is still a beautiful specimen. Photo by Tom Berg.

President's Message

by Phil Seng

We All Need to Support Conservation in America



It's an honor to begin my term as president of HOW. I took a careful look at the list of past presidents in the most recent issue of *The Blade*, and it certainly is a who's who of Indiana outdoor communication excellence. I'm humbled to be part of it. And a big thank you to Kenny Bayless for serving as president for two consecutive years to get us past the shores of Covid-Land (God willing!).

Quick background on me: I was born in Washington, Indiana, but grew up mostly along the Ohio River in Evansville. I received a BS in Forestry from Purdue and an MS in Wildlife Biology at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Like most of you, I'm an outdoor freak. I'm a lifelong hunter, angler, competitive shooter, reloader, hiker, camper, forager, etc. etc. I'm also a certified wildlife biologist and a certified hunter education instructor, and I sit on the boards of the [Indiana Turn in a Poacher](#) organization and [Orion, the Hunter's Institute](#). I'll probably talk more about those groups in future newsletters.

At work, I'm president of DJ Case & Associates, which is a communications consulting firm based in Mishawaka (my partner Jon Marshall is also a HOW member). DJ Case is a full-service communications firm, but *only* in the area of natural resources conservation. We work mostly with state and federal agencies (such as Indiana DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, etc.) and private conservation organizations (such as Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, etc.) to help them communicate effectively with their constituents about conservation issues. In my 32-year career, we've worked with about 40 of the state agencies, and most of the major federal agencies and NGOs all over the country and at every level. It's the only job I've ever had and the only one I can imagine doing. It provides a fascinating perspective on conservation in America.

Speaking of conservation in America, are you aware of the bipartisan **Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA)** currently making its way through Congress? It is H.R. 2773, S. 2372. This is the most significant wildlife conservation legislation in at least a generation. This Act would dedicate almost \$1.4 billion (yes, that's BILLION) each year toward proactive, voluntary conservation efforts for wildlife at risk. The vast majority of this money would go to state fish and wildlife agencies and their partners to implement State Wildlife Action Plans, funding on-the-ground conservation efforts such as habitat restoration, fighting invasive species and wildlife diseases and much more.

If you haven't yet told your readers about RAWA, please consider doing so. We are on the verge of an historic moment in conservation history. So far, neither of our senators and only one representative from Indiana is a cosponsor of this important bipartisan legislation. The National Wildlife Federation has a nice [summary of the bill](#) on its website. I encourage you to check it out and talk it up.

The fish, wildlife and habitat that we all love will be the big winners!

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 30.

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
Gene Clifford
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
Kenny Bayless	2021

Annual HOW Fun Shoot Returns!

by Tom Berg

The HOW Fun Shoot made a triumphant return on Friday, April 1 this year! As everyone remembers, the 2021 HOW Fun Shoot (along with the 2021 HOW conference) was cancelled due to Covid. Happily, we were able to gather once again this spring. It has become a tradition for the shooters in our membership to get together and break a few clay targets, have some fun and renew old friendships on the Friday before the Annual Meeting. Some of our regular participants are experienced shooters while others are new to the sport and are still learning, but all skill levels are always welcome!

We met at 1:00pm at the Waveland Gun Club not far from Turkey Run State Park. The gun club is set up with a nice skeet course, so we all shot a couple rounds of skeet before heading over to Turkey Run for the evening BBQ.

This year we had two excellent sponsors for the Fun Shoot. Our friends at **White Flyer Targets** supplied all of the clay targets, and our friends at **Winchester Ammunition** provided the shotshells to all of the participating shooters free of charge. Both companies are HOW Supporting Members, so please support them in your work whenever the opportunity presents itself.

2022 Fun Shoot Sponsors:



WINCHESTER
AMMUNITION



There was a mixture of sun and clouds when we arrived at the gun club, and a strong wind made it pretty chilly. Coats, hats and gloves were the standard attire of the afternoon! The chill in the air did not dampen our enthusiasm, though. Once the shooting started, everyone concentrated on the task at hand: which was breaking clay targets!

Tom Berg started the day with the hot gun. He led all shooters through the first round of skeet, ending the round with 20 out of 25 broken clays.

Veteran HOW shooter Mike Schoonveld was wielding a new TriStar over-and-under shotgun for the first two or three stations, but he didn't like the way it was shooting so he switched to his old reliable and well-worn Remington 870 Wingmaster shotgun. He has used this particular shotgun for more than 50 years, and it quickly helped him get right back up near the top of the leader board.

Two of the other top shooters



Above (L to R): HOW shooters Bill Keaton, Phil Seng and Mike Schoonveld watch as Kenny Bayless prepares for the next shot at the skeet range. HOW Fun Shoot photo taken by Tom Berg.

(HOW Fun Shoot continued on next page)

were Phil Seng and Bill Keaton, and both were only a couple clays behind Berg at the end of round 1. Bill Keaton, in particular, was actually just getting warmed up!

Round 2 started with Bill Keaton, Kenny Bayless and Phil Seng all scoring four out of four at the first station, and the competition just got hotter from there. Berg was trying to hold his own, but he couldn't keep the hot streak going. Bayless also faded, but Seng and Keaton were both shooting very well.

After completing Station 3, Keaton was 10 for 10 and Seng had scored 9 out of 10. Berg was in third place with 8 out of 10. After Station 5, Keaton was 14 for 14 and still red hot, and Seng and Berg were tied for second place with a score of 11 out of 14.

However, after Station 7, Phil Seng's score was 18 out of 22 and Tom Berg's score was 17 out of 22. Bill Keaton was still going strong and he still had not missed a target. His score was 22 out of 22. Wow! With just one station to go everyone was wondering if Bill would be able to complete his hot streak and go 25 for 25!



Above: Tom Berg takes aim at an incoming clay target. **Below Left:** Bill Keaton continues his hot streak. **Below Right:** Mike Schoonveld prepares for a shot at Station 1.



At Station 8, Berg and Seng each only hit one target, so their final scores were 18/25 and 19/25 respectively. Keaton stepped up to the line and yelled "Pull!" The first clay target disappeared in a puff of orange dust. He called



for the second clay and shattered it, too! That made his score 24/24. He had not taken a mulligan yet, so he called for it now. The 25th clay target came sailing in and Bill crushed it, also! Wow! A perfect skeet score: 25 out of 25! **Congratulations, Bill!**



We are not sure if this is the first time someone shot a perfect score at a HOW Fun Shoot, but it is the first time that any of us could remember, at least in the last 20 years or so. Many thanks go to **Winchester** and **White Flyer** for sponsoring the Fun Shoot this year. Thank you very much!

2022 HOW Conference Returns to Turkey Run State Park

The 52nd meeting of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers took place on the weekend of April 1-2, 2022 (Friday and Saturday) at Turkey Run State Park near Marshall, IN. It has been more than 10 years since we had a conference at Turkey Run, and it was good to be back! It was also good to be able to meet in-person with many old friends after the isolation of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The first activity of the conference was the annual HOW Fun Shoot on Friday, April 1. Several HOW members met at the nearby Waveland Gun Club to shoot skeet. HOW Supporting Members **White Flyer Targets** and **Winchester Ammunition** sponsored the shoot, and a good time was had



by all. If you have never attended a HOW Fun Shoot (or if it's been a while), check out all the fun we had on pages 5-6. After the shooting was done, everyone made the short drive over to the park and joined the other HOW members who were already gathering for the Friday evening barbecue and get-together

The barbecue started at 6:00pm inside the park at the **Big Log Shelter**. This shelter is located in the woods off the road to the Nature Center. Special thanks to Park Manager Chris Newcomb for reserving the shelter for us, and thanks to Brandon Butler and **Roeslein Alternative Energy** for sponsored this year's barbecue.

The barbecue was the perfect time to meet up with old friends and make some new ones as the food was being grilled. HOW Vice President Phil Seng was in charge of the BBQ this year, and he and his wife Laura did the heavy lifting of the cooking. We had plenty of hamburgers, hot dogs and brats for everyone. Since it was Lent, Tom

Berg also brought some salmon and trout fillets for those who preferred to eat fish. There was plenty to eat and drink, even though it was a bit chilly this year – as usual!

Everyone sat down inside the shelter to eat and continue visiting. Since it was pretty cold, our Turkey Run hosts started a nice fire in each of the shelter's two stone fireplaces. That warmed us up a bit. The food was great and the company was even



Above Left: Chef Phil Seng works on grilling the burgers and brats. **Above:** Foreground from left to right: Rita Keaton (wife of Bill Keaton), Ray Dickerson (with his back to the camera), Phil Bloom and John Maxwell prepare their dinner plates. Tom Berg photos.

better. Stories and a few tall tales were told and friendships were rekindled!

The annual meeting itself began at 8:00am on Saturday morning, and the attending HOW members and guests met at the historic Turkey Run Inn inside the state park. As usual, the first hour of the meeting was set aside for registration, coffee, a light continental breakfast, and some social time for the membership.



Turkey Run SP Naturalist Aaron Douglass.

HOW President Kenny Bayless called the meeting to order at 9:00am and provided a few opening remarks, then briefed those present on the day's schedule. He then introduced Turkey Run SP Interpretive Naturalist **Aaron Douglass** who gave a short and interesting talk about the park itself and Turkey Run's original writer, Juliet Strauss.

Our first seminar of the day featured our newest HOW member, **Trent Marsh** from Larwill, Indiana. Marsh works for SPYPOINT cellular trail cameras and is an expert when it comes to the benefits of these useful electronic tools and the sophisticated technology behind them.

He gave a very informative and detailed review of the different types of cellular cameras that are available today

and what most of them can (and cannot) do. It's a pretty safe bet that everyone learned something during his talk. Many of us learned a lot.

Actually, a large number of the HOW members that were present were very surprised at all of the new features available today, and just how far the technology has come in the last couple of years, both for cellular cameras and for cellular camera batteries. The fact that images and video from your trail camera can be accessed anywhere and anytime from your phone or from a computer is a real game-changer. The days of walking out to the field to retrieve memory cards are gone. Well, they are gone for cellular trail camera users, anyway!

Marsh also discussed many of the new products that are available from SPYPOINT and models that will be released soon. These tools are not just for hunters, either. Many people use them as security tools as well. He gave an in-depth review of the new SPYPOINT FLEX cellular trail camera which will be available at the end of June, and it looks like a great product. You can check it out at www.spypoint.com.



Seminar speaker Trent Marsh from Spypoint.

(continued next page)

The next seminar speaker of the day was **Teresa Rody**, the Interpretive Manager for IDNR's Upper Wabash Interpretive Services and the Salamonie Raptor Center. She and her husband Brad had brought several live birds of prey from the raptor center, and she brought them out one-by-one to show HOW members. She talked about how these interesting raptors live and hunt in Indiana's landscape, and described some of their interesting habits and behaviors.

Rody brought out the smallest bird first: a tiny eastern screech owl. The small owl kept looking at her and she commented that the owl wasn't looking at her lovingly, even though she has handled it many, many times before. She said since the owl was so small, it was probably thinking "Don't eat me!" That comment brought some laughs, but it was a true statement since the owl was still a wild creature – not a pet.

The next bird that she displayed was a beautiful American kestrel. Kestrels are the smallest species of falcons in North America, and the individual that she brought was just a little larger than an American robin. Rody carried this bird (and each bird, actually) around the room as she talked so everyone could get a good up-close look at it. Kestrels hunt a variety of prey, but insects like grasshoppers and beetles make up a large part of their diet. They also eat mice, voles, frogs and even small songbirds. They are fierce predators, especially when you consider their small size.



Above: Raptor specialist Teresa Rody holds a feisty American kestrel during her presentation. This bird appeared to be ready to fly at a moments notice! **Below:** Rody shows off the barred owl's wingspan.



forcefully, and it made no sound at all. It was a very cool and informative demonstration.

(continued next page)



Before breaking for lunch, President Kenny Bayless called the HOW Business Meeting to order. HOW Nominating Chairman John Martino presented the proposed slate of new officers for the coming year and the elections commenced. Phil Seng was elected our new President, Jarrett Manek was elected Vice-President and Kenny Bayless will become the Board Chairman. Our new Board members (terms expiring in 2024) include: Brian Waldman, Mike Lunsford, Joe Jansen, Teena Ligman and Cindy Stites. Thank you to all of our new volunteers!

After the elections and business meeting were concluded, an excellent buffet lunch was served by the Turkey Run Inn kitchen staff. Everyone relaxed and socialized for an hour before the afternoon activities began. A big thank-you goes out to our friends at the **National Shooting Sports Foundation** and the **Indiana Office of Tourism Development** for sponsoring the lunch this year at the HOW conference.

The first seminar after lunch was titled **“Indiana’s Wetlands and Their Conservation”**. Ducks Unlimited’s External Affairs Manager for the Great Lakes and Atlantic Region, Chris Sebastian, used an interesting Powerpoint presentation as he discussed how healthy wetlands and marshlands help fuel our outdoors adventures in Indiana.

He explained that Ducks Unlimited is the world leader in wetlands and waterfowl conservation, and since 1937 has helped conserve more than 15 million acres. Although that’s great, there is still much work to do. Recent drought conditions in the prairies and in the western U.S. has taken a heavy toll on duck production in those areas. Luckily, the conditions in Alaska, boreal Canada and the Great Lakes were much better, so duck production in those places was closer to normal.

Sebastian also updated everyone present on the status of habitat conservation in Indiana. Historically, 23,000 acres have been conserved in the Hoosier state, with a total investment of \$18 million. There are



Chris Sebastian from Ducks Unlimited discusses duck numbers, habitat data and waterfowl population trends throughout North America.

several other projects underway right now, too, at Willow Slough FWA and Reynolds Creek GHA, for example. DU is also working with more than a dozen other agencies in their Great Lakes Mallard Program, which will span Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. We all look forward to the great things to come!



After Chris Sebastian's presentation, it was time for the **TIP (Turn-In-a-Poacher/Polluter) Contest** presentation. Once again the TIP Citizen's Advisory Board sponsored a special writing contest for HOW members, asking our writers to promote the TIP mission, the TIP hotline and support the TIP Advisory Board.

Lt. Col. Terry Hyndman and Capt. Jet Quillen from the IDNR Law Enforcement Division, along with TIP Board President Joe Cales, were present to discuss the TIP program and the TIP mission. They also announced this year's TIP Contest winners and presented the winners with checks and framed certificates. Please see page 25 for details and photos of the TIP awards presentation.



Above: HOW conference attendees listen attentively to one of the meeting's interesting seminar speakers. **Right:** Lt. Col. Terry Hyndman talks about Indiana's TIP program and how the public's help can greatly assist law enforcement with catching poachers and polluters. Call 1-800-TIP-IDNR if you see a poacher breaking the law.



2022 HOW Awards-In-Craft winners (L to R): Richard Hines, Jason Houser, John Martino, Troy McCormick, John Maxwell, Phil Bloom, Tom Berg, Mike Lunsford and Marilyn Culler. Not present: Scott Cummings, Larry LaGrange and Brandon Butler. Thank you to Curt McAllister and **Toyota Motor Sales**, the corporate sponsor of the HOW Awards-In-Craft contests this year. Photo by Lori Berg.

Next, our newly-elected HOW President Phil Seng informed the membership that it was time to announce the results of the **2022 HOW Awards-In-Craft** contests.

Cash prizes and certificates were awarded to the best of the best in the annual Writing Contest, the Photography Contest and the Broadcast Contest. Our sincere thanks go to Curt McAllister and **Toyota Motor Sales** for once again sponsoring our AIC contests and for recognizing the achievements of our members. Check out the complete list of contest results on pages 19-20

to see who submitted the best work this year in the different media categories.

The last seminar of the day was led by Capt. Jet Quillen, the Public Relations Captain for IDNR Law Enforcement, and Deb Treesh, the Executive Director of the Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry organization. Their presentation was titled **“Sportsmen’s Benevolence Fund and Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry”**. Both speakers discussed these two important programs which benefit low income and poor communities throughout the state.

They described how hunters can help make a positive impact on the quality of life for Hoosiers by providing legally harvested deer to hunger relief agencies within the state. Farmers may also donate livestock to the program. In the past 10 years, more than two million pounds of meat have been given away to needy families, resulting in over 8.25 million meals. These are definitely great programs.

HOW members may get more info by calling Deb Treesh at 260-233-1444 (cell: 260-541-0365) or by visiting www.hoosiersfeedingthehungry.org.



Capt. Jet Quillen and Deb Treesh describe details of the Sportsmen’s Benevolence Fund and the Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry program.

The final activity of the day was the annual HOW Raffle. This is the favorite part of the meeting for many HOW members, and this year's raffle did not disappoint. Raffle Chairman Tom Berg organized another great event this year, easily filling several banquet tables with excellent outdoor products from our loyal



Above: Laura and Phil Seng check out some of the items on one of the many tables filled to overflowing with great outdoor products for the HOW Raffle. **Right:** Chris Sebastian from DU inspects one of the great trail cameras that were up for grabs in the raffle. Raffle photos by Tom Berg.

assisted by long-time HOW member Brent Wheat, and Brent has stepped-up and agreed to take the reins from Jack and run the raffle ticket sales and number-calling in the future. A big thank-you goes to both Jack and Brent, and especially to Jack for his work and commitment to the HOW Raffle over the past 30 years or more!

As HOW members have come to expect, this year's raffle featured quality as well as quantity when it came to the items to be raffled-off. Firearms enthusiasts were pleased with this year's raffle prizes again, as we had a fine **Henry** .22 caliber lever-action Octagon Frontier Rifle, a fantastic **Ruger** American Rifle with *Go Wild* camo chambered in 6.5 Creedmoor, a very cool **Mossberg**

HOW Supporting Members (and several new Supporting Members). This year he and his helpers secured donations from a total of **83** companies, organizations and individuals. That is quite a bit more than last year, so we are definitely going in the right direction. We had a great assortment of raffle items again this year, too. Tom would also like to thank John Galambos, Josh Lantz and Brent Wheat for their help in securing a number of the items again this year. Thank you!

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

The moment the raffle tickets went on sale, a long line formed behind the ticket sales table. Just like last year, however, sales went a lot quicker since we had groups of 50 tickets pre-stripped and ready to sell. This year veteran ticket seller Jack Spaulding was



500 Turkey shotgun (.410 bore) with Mossy Oak *Bottomland* camo, and an awesome CVA Accura LR-X .50 caliber muzzleloader. Bowhunters and serious archers were glad to see a great **Mission Archery HAMMR** compound bow on the raffle table as well.

Besides the guns and bow, we also had plenty of shooting supplies, optics, a premium bow sight, a high quality Summit treestand, ammunition, gun safes, a reloading press, electronic earmuffs, gun cleaning products and much more. We even had three Daisy BB guns (including a Red Ryder) to add to the mix!



Above: Brent Wheat (L) and Jack Spaulding (R) smile as they work on selling more raffle tickets. **Below Left:** HOW member Gary Redmon displays the great CVA .50 caliber muzzleloader he won in the raffle. Deer hunting with it this fall, Gary?



Fishermen in the crowd were nearly overwhelmed by an incredible array of fishing lures of all shapes, sizes and colors. We also had multiple Vexilar SonarPhones, a Vexilar Fish-Scout underwater camera system, premium rodholders, fishing rods, fishing reels, icefishing gear, landing nets, fishing line, terminal tackle and tackle boxes.

There was also a Boat US membership, turkey calls, outdoors books, field guides, premium backpacks, high quality sunglasses, phone cases, hunting gear, shirts, hats, gloves, waterproof binoculars, knives, camping gear, superior coolers, hiking boots and other outdoor gear. We also had many gift certificates for products and services from our generous Supporting Members.

The 2022 raffle was another huge success! Of course, without the support and generosity of our Supporting Members the raffle would not happen at all. For a complete listing of this year's raffle donors, see page 16. Please support them in your work whenever possible, and send them a thank-you note when you get a chance.

Don't forget to mail or email tearsheets or online links to our corporate members when you feature their products in your work, too. It is important to let them know of your efforts!

Besides the regular HOW Raffle this year, we also had a special HOW Auction where we auctioned-off two separate hunting/fishing trips to HOW members who were present.

The first trip was a **One-Day Jet Boat Guided Fishing Trip** for two for smallmouth bass on the St. Joseph River, with HOW member and former fishing guide **Josh Lantz**. Bidding started at \$100 and we had several interested bidders. As the price went up the bidding became pretty spirited between HOW members Bob Sawtelle and Mike Berg. Mike made what he thought would be the last bid at \$500, but Ranger Bob prevailed with the winning bid of \$525. Congratulations, Bob! We are sure you will have a great time. And a big thank-you to Josh Lantz for donating this great fishing trip.



The second trip was a fantastic **South African Hunting Safari** with **Van Vuuren African Safaris**. We offered this safari at the HOW conference in 2019 and we were able to offer it again this year. Back in 2019 Mike Berg was the winner of the auction, although Covid postponed his safari until the spring of 2021. Mike and his son Steve flew to South Africa for the safari last year and they said they had a wonderful time.

This year the bidding for the South African safari was scheduled to start at \$700. Since the safari is valued at \$4,700 this was the opportunity of a lifetime. We advertised this trip pretty heavily before the conference, but HOW members must have still been a little wary of traveling internationally because we again only had one bidder. Amazingly, Mike Berg was the successful bidder again! He commented that he had not planned on bidding since he just went to Africa last year, but he couldn't pass up the chance for another dream trip at such a great price. Thank-you to Van Vuuren African Safaris for donating this trip, too.

Next year we hope to have the opportunity to offer the safari again, so start thinking about whether you and your hunting partners would like to travel to Africa for the trip of a lifetime! We hope to have a lot more participation next year! Be sure to check out the **Van Vuuren African Safaris** website at www.vvasafaris.com for additional details and other trip information.



HOW Raffle Donors - 2022

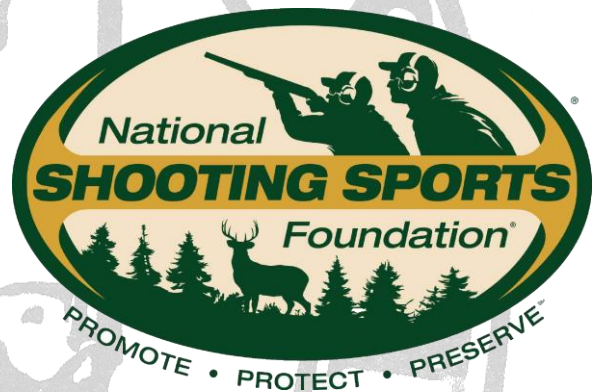
A big thank-you goes to this year's raffle donors. Please support them in your work whenever possible.

Al's Goldfish Lure Co.
Alps Brands
Aquateko International
Arctic Ice
Artrip Float Company
B'n'M Poles
Blackbird Products
Black River Tools
BoatUS
BOLT Locks
Boomerang Tool Company
BPI Outdoors
Brent Wheat
Bucket Grip
Buff USA
Caldwell
Celox Hemostatic Products
Church Tackle Co.
Cocoons Eyewear
Code Blue Scents
Daisy Outdoor Products
Danco Sports
Dardevle Lures
Ducks Unlimited
Egret Baits
Falcon Guides
Finn Tackle Company
Fish Monkey Gloves
Flying Fisherman
Frogg Toggs
Glacier Glove
Hawke Sport Optics
Henry Repeating Arms
HHA Sports
Hi Mountain Seasonings
Hofmann's Lures
Hoosier Trapper Supply
Hornady Manufacturing
Howard Leight
HT Enterprises, Inc.
Josh Lantz Fishing
LensPen

Looter Lure
Mack's Lure
Mathews Archery
MEC Outdoors
Moultrie Trail Cameras
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation
Norsemen Outdoors
Nothead Tackle
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.
Old Salt Angling
Otis Technology
Outdoor Sportsman Group
PahaQue Wilderness
Plano Synergy
Pro-Cure Bait Scents
Pure Fishing
Quaker Boy Game Calls
Rapala VMC
Seaguar Fishing Lines
Shooter's Choice
Sierra Bullets
Smith's Products
Snag Proof Lures
Speedhook Specialists
Sporting Classics
Spro Corporation
Spypoint Trail Cameras
St. Croix Rods
Sturm, Ruger & Co.
Summit Treestands
Swab-Its
Tales End Tackle
Target Communications Outdoor Books
Tick Terminator
TTI-Blakemore
Van Vuuren African Safaris
Vexilar, Inc.
White Flyer Targets
Winchester Ammunition
W.R. Case

2022 HOW Conference

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



The HOW 2022 Awards-In-Craft Contests

The results are in! The winners of the 2022 Awards-In-Craft contest were announced at this year's annual conference at Turkey Run State Park in April, and we had a large number of outstanding entries. As usual, the writing portion of the contest drew the most interest, as HOW members submitted a total of 100 entries from 17 different HOW members. This was only slightly less than the number of entries from 2021 when we had 108 entries, so that's still very good. Let's keep up the momentum and have even more entries next year! You can't win if you don't play, and there is no cost to participate. The photography contest included 49 entries from 11 HOW members, which is quite a bit more than last year when we had 40 entries. The Broadcast contest featured eight entries from three different HOW members, which is very similar to last year. This year we had entries in all three broadcast categories, too.

Considering the large amount of contest entries, the AIC judges did a great job and most of the competitions were extremely close. In the Writing Contest, only one or two points often separated a first place entry from a second place entry, etc. Many articles landed in 4th place by a mere point or two, also. Considering the fact that each article can receive up to 200 points (100 from each of two judges), those were some close races! We had a total of 12 different winners in the contests in 2022. Make sure you get in on the fun next year!

Once again this year the Awards-In-Craft contests were sponsored by **Toyota**, so the winners were awarded checks along with certificates to commemorate their achievements. We would like to thank Curt McAllister, Midwest Public Relations Manager and Outdoor Communications Manager at **Toyota Motor North America**, and all our friends at Toyota for their generous sponsorship in 2022.



HOW members are encouraged to log on to the Toyota website (www.toyotanewsroom.com) to find out more about their products and recent news releases, including information on their educational and community giving efforts.

A special thank-you also goes to our contest coordinators who donated their time and energy to secure judges and get each of the entries reviewed and scored in time for the conference at Turkey Run. Dealing with a large number of submissions which are typically sent right before the deadline always makes coordinating the entries/judges difficult, but the electronic entries really helped. The official 2022 Awards-In-Craft coordinators were: Troy McCormick (Writing), John Martino (Photography) and Tom Berg (Broadcast).



For a complete list of the winners (along with the number of entries for each contest) see the details on the following pages. Please take a look and congratulate your fellow HOW members on their successes.

WRITING CONTEST (100 entries from 17 different HOW members)

Hunting/Trapping (Less Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: John Martino, "Be Mindful of Others When Transporting Deer"
2nd: Tom Berg, "Briar Patch Rabbits" -- **TIE** --
2nd: John Martino, "Making the Most of a Special Weekend" -- **TIE** --
3rd: Tom Berg, "Dove Hunting the Late Season"

Hunting/Trapping (More Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: Tom Berg, "Paddling for Muskrats!"
2nd: Scott Cummings, "The Ghost of the Forest" -- **TIE** --
2nd: John Martino, "Missed Deadline Leads to Adventure in Alaska" -- **TIE** --
3rd: Jason Houser, "Minnesota Success"

Fishing (Less Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: John Martino, "World's Most Inspirational Fisherman Comes to Kokomo"
2nd: John Martino, "Give Fellow Anglers the Room You'd Want"
3rd: Larry LaGrange, "Spider Rigging for Crappie is Efficient, Productive"

Fishing (More Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: Tom Berg, "Discover Spinners for Small Stream Steelhead" -- **TIE** --
1st: Scott Cummings, "Landing the Rare Spearfish" -- **TIE** --
2nd: Richard Hines, "Trapping Crawfish: Dinner or Bait?"
3rd: Tom Berg, "Great Lakes Fishing Guide"

Conservation (Less Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: John Martino, "Conservation Officers Play Vital Role"
2nd: John Martino, "Misunderstood Snakes Play a Key Role"
3rd: John Maxwell, "Explore the Surprises in These Fern-tastic Woods"

Conservation (More Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: Tom Berg, "Lake Invaders: Unwanted Exotics"
2nd: Mike Lunsford, "We Come and Go, But the Land is Always There" -- **TIE** --
2nd: Richard Hines, "Camera Surveys for Turkeys" -- **TIE** --
3rd: Phil Bloom, "Let's Talk Wild Turkey"

General Outdoors (Less Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: John Martino, "Kids Can Benefit From Safe Boat Operation"
2nd: John Martino, "Holding on Tight to Cherished Memories" -- **TIE** --
2nd: Brandon Butler, "Creative Gift-Giving Makes Christmas" -- **TIE** --
3rd: Tom Berg, "Gaylord, Michigan: An Outdoorsman's Paradise"

General Outdoors (More Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: John Martino, "Outdoors Has Room for Colorful Language"
2nd: Mike Lunsford, "Film Inspired Athlete to Take the Ride of Her Life"
3rd: Mike Lunsford, "Walking the Sea of Grass"



PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST (49 entries from 11 different HOW members)

Hunting/Trapping

- 1st: Brandon Butler, "Free-Range Aoudad"
- 2nd: Tom Berg, "Hunting Cornfield Coyote"
- 3rd: John Maxwell, "Southern Indiana Turkey Hunt"

Fishing

- 1st: Tom Berg, "Chasing Shoshone River Cutthroat Trout"
- 2nd: John Maxwell, "Striper Fishing at Potato Creek State Park"
- 3rd: Brandon Butler, "In the Canyon"

Outdoor Scenic

- 1st: John Maxwell, "Tippecanoe Snowy Farm"
- 2nd: Mike Lunsford, "Fall Comes to the Creek"
- 3rd: John Maxwell, "Christmas Star Over Stone Arch Lake"

Outdoor Recreation

- 1st: John Maxwell, "Turkey Run State Park Snow Hike"
- 2nd: Marilyn Culler, "Making a New Friend"
- 3rd: Marilyn Culler, "Nobody's Here"

BROADCAST CONTEST (8 entries from 3 HOW members)

Best Video

- 1st: Troy McCormick, "Making Hay: The 1850's Hay Press"
- 2nd: Troy McCormick, "Midwest Barns"
- 3rd: Jason Houser, "Al's Goldfish Commercial"

Best TV Broadcast

- 1st: Jason Houser, "Hog and Gator Hunting with Manny Puig"
- 2nd: Jason Houser, "Trout and Salmon Fishing with Wolf Pack Adventures"
- 3rd: -- No Entry --

Best Radio Broadcast

- 1st: Brandon Butler, "Driftwood Acres – Up in Smoke"
- 2nd: Brandon Butler, "Bill Dance Outdoors"
- 3rd: -- No Entry --



NOTE: See the following four pages for images of the winning photos in this year's Photography Contest.

WINNING IMAGES FROM THIS YEAR'S PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Hunting /Trapping



First Place - Brandon Butler

"Free-range Aoudad"

Second Place - Tom Berg



"Hunting Cornfield Coyote"



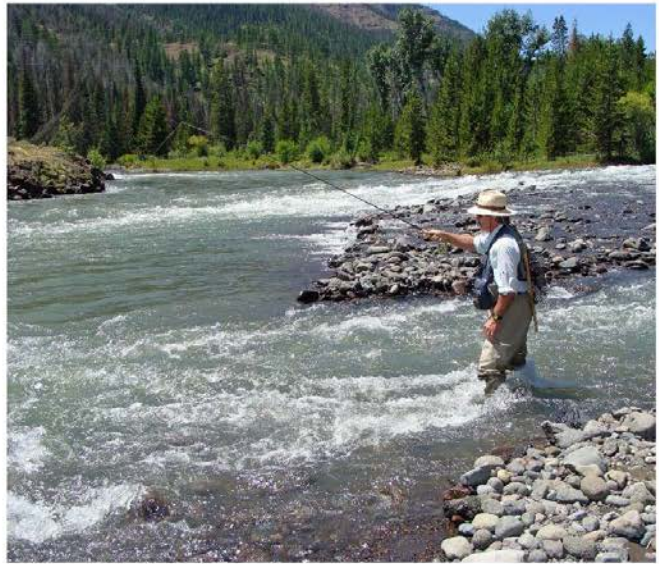
Third Place - John Maxwell

"Southern Indiana Turkey Hunt"

WINNING IMAGES FROM THIS YEAR'S PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Fishing

First Place - Tom Berg



"Chasing Shoshone River Cutthroat Trout"



Second Place - John Maxwell

"Striper fishing at Potato Creek State Park"

Third Place - Brandon Butler



"In the Canyon"

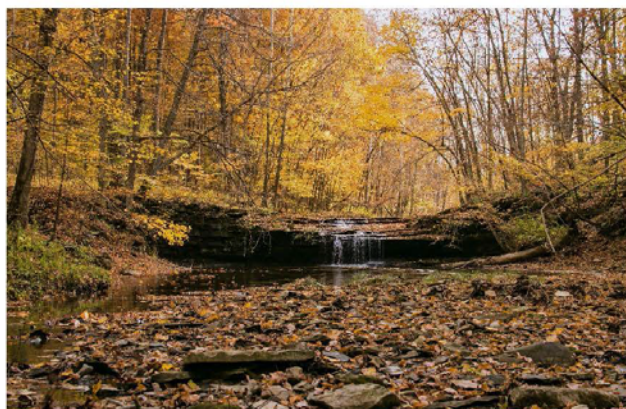
WINNING IMAGES FROM THIS YEAR'S PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Outdoor Scenic

First Place — John Maxwell



"Tippecanoe snowy farm"



"Fall Comes to the Creek"

Second Place — Mike Lunsford

Third Place — John Maxwell

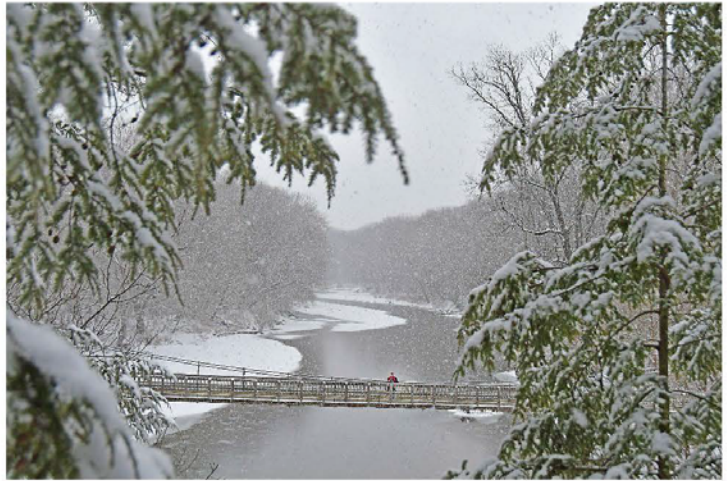


"Christmas Star over Stone Arch Lake – Great Conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter "

WINNING IMAGES FROM THIS YEAR'S PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Outdoor Recreation

First Place – John Maxwell

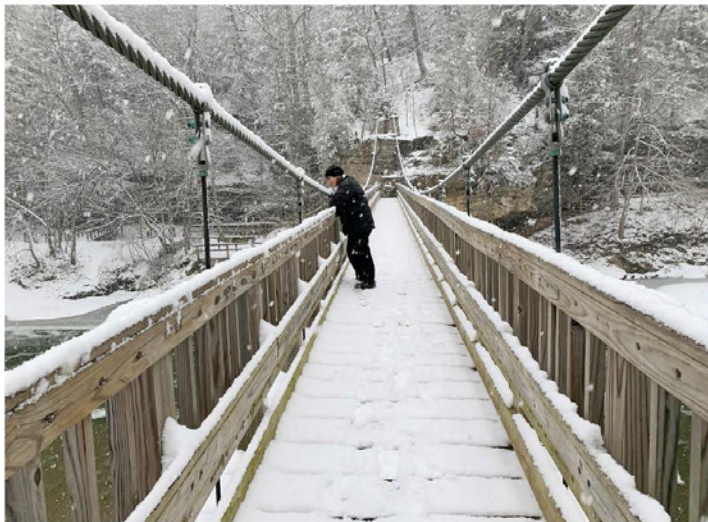


"Turkey Run State Park snow hike"



Second Place - Marilyn Culler

"Making a New Friend"

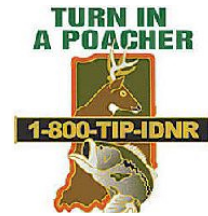


Third Place - Marilyn Culler

"Nobody's Here"



The TIP – Hoosier Outdoor Writers Turn in a Poacher/Polluter Writing Contest



The Indiana Turn in a Poacher (TIP) Citizen's Advisory Board once again sponsored a writing contest to encourage HOW members to promote the TIP mission, the TIP hotline and support of the TIP Advisory Board. We had good participation this year and we received some excellent TIP articles.

A complete list of the 2022 winners is printed below. This year the prizes were \$300 for first place; \$200 for second place; \$100 for third place. Please take a look at the results below and congratulate your fellow HOW members on their successes.

Here is the list of the 2022 TIP Contest award winners:

First Place: Louie Stout, for his article:
“**TIP Program Helps DNR Bust Fish and Game Poachers**”
Published on *MichianaOutdoorNews.com*, 1-13-22

Second Place: Tom Berg, for his article:
“**Indiana's TIP Program: Poachers Beware**”
Published in *Adventure Sports Outdoors*, January 2022

Third Place: Marilyn Culler, for her article:
“**Why Didn't You Call?**”
Published in *The Greencastle Banner Graphic*, 1-25-22

A special thank-you also goes to our TIP contest coordinator, Troy McCormick, and our TIP liaison, Phil Seng. Troy and Phil donated their time and energy to gather the entries, forward them on to the TIP Board, and perform all of the coordination between HOW and the TIP Board for this contest.

And FYI, there will be another contest this year, so start thinking about writing more TIP articles throughout the rest of this year and get them published for your readers to see!



TIP Contest presentations: **Above Left:** Tom Berg receives his 2nd Place award from TIP Board President Joe Cales as Capt. Jet Quillen and Lt. Col. Terry Hyndman look on. **Above Right:** Marilyn Culler receives her 3rd Place award from Joe Cales. 1st Place winner Louie Stout was not present.



THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US



Ray Scott – Age 88

Fishing Industry Icon and Founder of B.A.S.S.

Ray Scott, age 88, of Pintlala, AL, passed away peacefully of natural causes on May 8, 2022. He was born on August 24, 1933 in Montgomery, AL. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers: Daniel and Edward Scott, and his first wife Eunice Hiott Scott. He is survived by his wife Hope Susan Scott and four children; Ray Wilson Scott III (Vickie), Steven Leo Scott (Kelly), Jennifer Eunice Epperson (Larry), Wilson Freeman Scott (Noel), 10 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Ray Scott grew up in a one-bedroom house in Montgomery during the Great Depression and helped his family make ends meet by mowing grass, delivering groceries on his bicycle and selling peanuts at local baseball games. He was drafted into the Army in 1954 and served a two year term. The G.I. Bill allowed him to attend Auburn University where he graduated with a business degree.

After working in the insurance industry, Scott founded the first national professional bass fishing circuit, the Bassmaster Tournament Trail. That was in 1967, and the following year he founded the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.) which would grow to become the world's largest fishing organization.

To serve B.A.S.S. members and to publicize the tournament trail, Scott launched *Bassmaster* Magazine, which the New York Times described as “the Bible of Bass Fishing,” and which ultimately would be delivered to 650,000 B.A.S.S. members monthly. He was also one of the creators of *The Bassmasters* TV show, which attracted more than 1 million viewers weekly on The Nashville Network.

In 1972, he debuted the “Don’t Kill Your Catch” campaign and mandated that all tournament competitors’ boats feature an aerated livewell to keep their bass alive. “I didn’t invent catch and release,” Scott acknowledged, “but we did make it popular in bass fishing, and that changed the sport in so many ways. We preached that a bass is too valuable to be caught only once. We helped fishermen learn how great it felt to catch a 5- or 6-pound bass and then lean over and let it go and watch it swim away, hopefully to be caught again.”



Scott and his rapidly growing B.A.S.S. organization also crusaded against industrial pollution of America’s waterways. In 1970 and 1971, Scott filed some 200 anti-pollution lawsuits, drawing national attention to declining water quality and contributing significantly to passage of the Clean Water Act of 1972.

Scott earned numerous accolades and honors for his contributions to conservation and outdoor recreation over the years. He was inducted into the inaugural class of the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame in 2001, the International Game Fish Association Hall of Fame in 2004 and the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in 1987. He was named the 1988 Sport Fisherman of the Year by the Sport Fishing Institute. Ray Scott will be deeply missed.

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

For immediate release: May 26, 2022

Next Level Conservation Trust

The Department of Natural Resources announced today the establishment of the Next Level Conservation Trust, a program which will acquire property that will become part of the public trust and be protected for future generations of Hoosiers to use and enjoy.

The state will initially invest \$25 million in the program, which is as an extension of the Bicentennial Nature Trust program and will incorporate elements from the President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust.

“The Next Level Conservation Trust will continue the DNR’s legacy of preserving Indiana’s rich natural heritage,” said DNR Director Dan Bortner. “Outstanding natural features, unique habitats, significant historical and archeological sites, and areas for conservation, restoration, and recreation will be protected for Hoosiers today and for future generations.”

An additional 25 percent of funding will come through a private funding match program. Property protected under NLCT will be open to the public. The program is flexible to allow local ownership and management of acquired properties through a conservation easement.

Additional information on the program can be found at on.IN.gov/next-level-conservation-trust.

Media contact: JB Brindle, Director, 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 Troy McCormick:

HOW board member Troy McCormick is always on the lookout for curious and unusual wildlife species when he is out exploring the countryside, and he was recently rewarded with some interesting finds of the feathered variety. "I added a couple of new bird species for my Life List while on a trip to Arizona," said McCormick.



"While driving through the Coconino National Forest, on the way to Sycamore Canyon, the second deepest canyon in Arizona, I saw an all-blue bird in a stand of Ponderosa pine and I knew it wasn't an indigo bunting. I took some photos and later identified it as a **Mountain Bluebird** (*Sialia currucoides*). I spotted it near the rim of Sycamore Canyon (elevation = 6,800 feet)."

Mountain bluebirds are not terribly shy and they are surprisingly tolerant of human activity. They are often seen resting on fence posts, tree stumps (as shown here) or at the tops of bushes or trees.

This mountain bluebird (**left**) is perched on an old tree stump and is probably watching for flying insects. These bluebirds often hunt from perches like this and catch many insects on the wing. The vermilion flycatcher (**below**) also hunts insects on the wing, usually returning to the same perch time after time.

"In sharp contrast to the mountain bluebird," McCormick continued, "I saw my next interesting bird while metal detecting a small park in a desert town two days later. This area was 7,000 feet lower in elevation."

"Suddenly, a group of five reddish-orange and black birds started chasing each other around me. One brightly-colored male bird landed 20 feet from me and I got a clear photo. I did a quick check with Google and I identified it as a **Vermilion Flycatcher** (*Pyrocephalus obscurus*).

"That made two new Life List species in two days," beamed McCormick. Way to go, Troy!

These bright, beautiful birds are very conspicuous in their normal desert surroundings in the US Southwest. The male's bright red plumage matches its genus name perfectly, since *Pyrocephalus* translates to "fire-headed."



One interesting fact about vermilion flycatchers is that when males are trying to attract female mates, they often bring gifts to them. A particularly juicy moth or colorful butterfly is frequently more than enough to catch her attention. If not, he will keep trying by bringing other tasty insect morsels.



Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

Report from Dave Hoffman:

Eager to get back on the open road as the Covid infection rate receded, HOW member Dave Hoffman and his wife, Judy, also headed to Arizona. They drove to one of southeast Arizona's birding hotspots where Dave added a surprise entry to his Life List. Within minutes of arriving at the Santa Rita Lodge in the mountains southeast of Tucson, he heard someone announce "Redstart." "I looked for the familiar black and reddish-orange feathers of the American redstart," he said, "but what caught my eye instead was black and flashing white feathers as the bird landed near a hummingbird feeder."

Fanning and flicking its white wing-patches and outer tail-feathers, these little bundles of energy are attracted to sugar water as well as tree sap. Since the feeder was empty, the mysterious bird departed in an instant. "Luckily, I got one shot showing a distinct, white lower-eye crescent. That confirmed it was a redstart, although not the common **American redstart** (*Setophaga ruticilla*). It was the rare and beautiful **Painted Redstart** (*Myioborus pictus*), and a lifer for me," said Hoffman.

These unique birds are primarily found in Mexico and Central America, but will also breed in Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. Their preferred habitats are the pine-oak, oak and oak-juniper canyons.

"I also had a chance to photograph some familiar waterfowl at a local ranch after descending the mountain," he said. "Seen in Indiana while migrating on their way to the northwest prairies of the U.S. and Canada, the **Redhead** (*Aythya americana*) is one of 12 members of the genus of diving ducks."

The handsome redhead drake has a bluish-gray,



Above: A painted redstart stopped just long enough for Dave Hoffman to get one photo. **Below Left:** A male redhead duck poses for a nice portrait.



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 for others to enjoy!

black-tipped bill, yellow eyes, and a reddish or bright rufous head. From a distance the redhead duck appears similar to the **Canvasback** (*Aythya valisineria*). However, their identify can be confirmed by observing the straight-line slope of the canvasback's head and black bill, as compared to the redhead's rounded head and the sharp angle where it meets the bluish-gray bill.

The redhead hen is medium-brown overall and possesses a black-tipped, dark gray bill and brown eyes. Hen redheads are curiously known to lay their eggs in the nests of other species, a characteristic known as "brood parasitism."

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

HOW Member News

Cindy Stites Starts New Job at Indiana DNR

HOW member Cindy Stites recently started a new job at the Department of Natural Resources. Here is a short description from her:

“I am excited to announce that I have started a new position as the Wildlife Recreation Program Manager with Indiana DNR’s Division of Fish & Wildlife,” reported Stites. “Getting new hunters and anglers outdoors has been a passion of mine for some time now, so this position feels like the perfect fit.”

“As most folks are aware, the numbers of hunters and anglers have been in a steady decline over the last two decades – not just in Indiana, but all around the United States. Unfortunately, that translates to less license sales which means less funding for wildlife conservation, and that is a big problem.”

“Recruitment, retention, and reactivation are words that have been around in the outdoor space for several years now, and there have been many different approaches with regards to how each are approached. I look forward to digging into each category and developing specific in-person and on-line programming that will give people the tools they need to feel confident in the outdoors, regardless of which category they may fall into.”

“Assisting conservation non-profit organizations around the state with their outreach events will continue to be of the utmost importance, as will be the case with helping the public establish or improve shooting ranges, by way of Wildlife Sport Fish Restoration federal grants, administered by DNR.”

“Developing an immersive twelve-month mentoring program for adults is my ‘big picture’ goal while holding this position. I hope to build a solid foundation of mentors from the outdoor community who will be willing to go the extra mile and share their knowledge and experience with those who want to learn. Offering a four seasons approach would give a potential new outdoors person the ability to decide for themselves what activities they enjoy, and which ones they do not. Educational workshops placed between the trips to the woods or water will add to the experience, giving the new outdoors people a deeper understanding of the importance of conservation, hunting ethics, hunter representation, woodsmanship, landowner relationships, and much more.”

“So, as you can imagine, my plate is very full and will be for the near future. I will have many challenges along the way and whenever you take a program in a new or different direction, it may take time to get people to ‘buy in’ to your vision. But I am here for all of it. After volunteering with conservation organizations around the country over the last few years, I am happy to be putting all that energy toward making a positive impact right here in my home state.”

That sounds great, Cindy. Good luck in your new role – we know you will do well!



Florida Bass Fishing Provides Many Memories

by Bill Keaton

In late March, my wife Rita and I made a quick trip to central Florida to fish for a couple of days. We were pretty worn out with moving into a new home, so we made the short notice trip to Tavares, Florida to bass fish in the Harris Lake chain. There are three large lakes in this chain which include Lake Harris, Lake Eustis and Lake Dora.

Last year we made a soiree through Florida to visit family and friends. We stayed in Tavares and decided to hire a guide to take us fishing one day. After an Internet search we settled on Capt. Simon McCoy of Bass Soldiers to fish for largemouth bass. Rita was not an experienced bass fisherman, and we soon learned that Capt. McCoy was a great choice. The weather was difficult; but despite that, Captain McCoy patiently taught and mentored Rita. As it turned out, Rita caught the biggest bass that trip.

We had had such a good experience with Capt. McCoy that we contacted him as soon as we decided to head back to Florida to fish again. We booked him for two trips, and he gave us two discounts. One was for being a repeat customer and the other was for booking more than one trip. A half day of fishing was only \$175 with the discounts. Normal trip cost without discounts is \$225 which is very reasonable since Capt. McCoy provides all gear, bait and a top-notch bass boat.



Unlike last year, the weather was clear and beautiful with temperatures in the mid 80's in the afternoon. On the first day we had an afternoon trip, and the second day we switched to a morning trip. Capt. McCoy knew right where to take us.



The first day we fished Lake Eustis. Capt. McCoy knew a narrow path through shrubs and lily pads into a shallow swamp where the bass were spawning. This area had a lot of big bass and tilapia. We caught several bass that were three and four pounds and lots of smaller ones. We saw no other boats or fishermen in this area, but we did see a twelve-foot alligator sunning itself about thirty feet from us. We also saw lots of interesting birds including osprey, eagles, purple gallinule, and white ibis.

On the second morning we fished in Lake Harris. There had been a tournament there the previous week with lots of television coverage, so the boats and fishermen were out in force. This morning we fished a large area of lily pads both out on the edge and right in the lily pads, sight fishing for big bass on the beds. I learned something I would have never suspected. Capt. McCoy would spot a bass through a hole in the lily pads and tell me exactly where to look and drop my bait. For the life of me, I could not see the bass, but most times when I hit the spot, he would say, "She's got it; set the hook!", and I would hook a nice bass. I was wearing

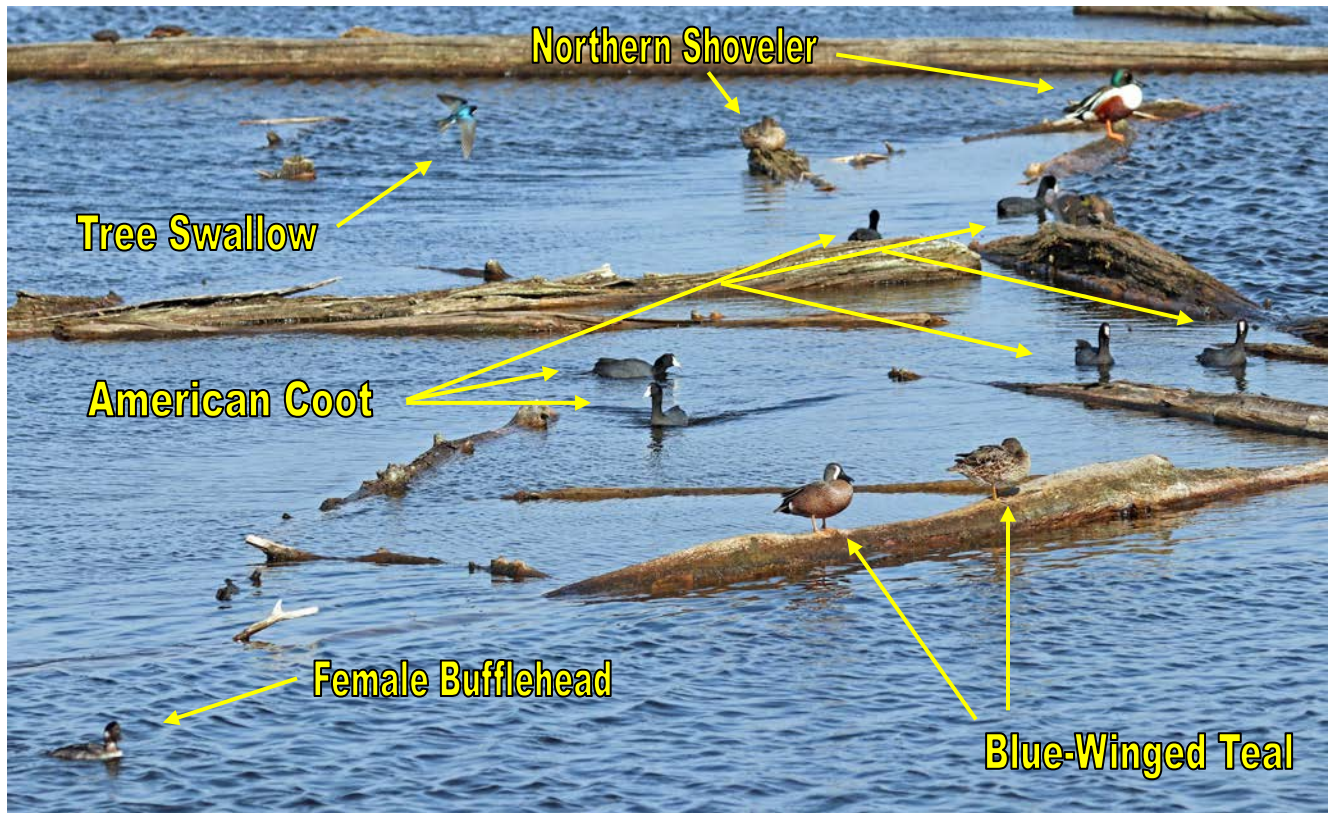
high quality Ray-Ban polarized sunglasses and thought I'd be able to see in the water and see the fish. Not so! I asked him how he could see the fish, but I couldn't. He told me he was wearing sunglasses intended for sight fishing and that mine were not. We caught a lot of big bass that day, and once again we enjoyed a lot of wildlife.

We would highly recommend Capt. Simon McCoy if you are going to be near the Harris Lake Chain and want a good bass fishing trip. Captain McCoy may be contacted at (352) 267-3652.

Berg Finds Waterfowl and More at Heron Rookery

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg spent some time this spring photographing birds at a local heron rookery near his house. He and his wife Lori saw a variety of birds, including ducks, geese, swans, owls, herons, woodpeckers, swallows, blackbirds and migrating warblers, just to name a few.

The surprising thing was how many of the bird species seemed to hang around together. The photo below shows four species of waterfowl in the same frame, along with a tree swallow. Check it out:



The Highland Heron Rookery (Highland, IN) is a magnet for migrating birds in the springtime, and it is used by a wide variety of birds all season long. Berg enjoys visiting the rookery during the spring migration, in particular, to see and photograph waterfowl and warblers. It is not unusual to see 7 or 8 species of warblers, 2 or 3 species of vireos and 4 or 5 species of ducks in a single day during the annual migration.

Membership Changes and Member Contact Info

The following HOW members have updated contact information. Please make a note of it:

Scott Cummings: New address: 16 Southington Circle, Bluffton, SC 29910.
Brandon Butler: New address: 801 Bucks Run, Columbia, MO 65201.
Phil Junker: New email: philjunkerscribe@gmail.com.

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

Fox Squirrels Love to Eat Seeds and Nuts of All Sorts



Close-up



Original



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was a little easier than usual, since it was correctly identified by a total of nine (9) HOW members. Bill Keaton, Bob Jennings, Mike Schoonveld, Brandon

Butler, John Maxwell, Rich Creason, Jack Spaulding, Phil Seng and Troy McCormick were all able to identify it. When we drew a name at random for the **Howard Light** electronic earmuffs, John Maxwell was the lucky winner. Congratulations, John! We will be sure to send the prize directly to you.

As you can see in the photo (at left), the mystery creature for this issue was an Eastern Fox Squirrel (*Sciurus niger*). Their fur is brownish-gray on their back and head, with brighter orange or brownish-orange on their legs and undersides. The orange color is reminiscent of the red fox, thus the name. As kids we called them red squirrels, but a better description would be orange squirrels!

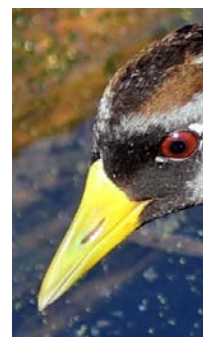
Fox squirrels spend most of their time foraging for food alone on the forest floor, where they search for acorns, hickory nuts, walnuts and other seeds. They also love maple seeds, pine nuts, berries, fruit, corn, roots, tree buds, fungi, bird eggs and insects. Although they are loners, they don’t mind if other squirrels forage nearby, too. Even though they spend a lot of time on the ground, they are excellent climbers. Fox squirrels prefer to nest in hollow cavities in trees, often in holes made by woodpeckers the previous year. The squirrels raise their young in these cavities where they are well-protected from predators and the elements. Even though the baby squirrels are born blind and don’t open their eyes for the first month, they are totally self-sufficient by the time they are four months old.

Unfortunately, we have not yet been able to secure a contest sponsor for this issue, at least not by press time. If we are able to get a sponsor before the end of the contest, a mass email will go out to the HOW membership to let everyone know. If not, everyone that guesses correctly can simply enjoy the fact that they came up with the right answer! See below for more information and for the next mystery photo.

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, although it is more common in some areas than others. You are not likely to see it in your own back yard. Does it look familiar? Have you ever seen this color pattern?

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 sparrow, for example, go ahead and guess “House Sparrow” (of course, it’s not a sparrow). If you think you know the answer, send an email to me at thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you’re right, you will be entered in this issue’s prize drawing!



As mentioned above, we do not yet have a corporate sponsor for this issue’s “What Is It?” contest. But don’t fret. We are still actively looking for sponsors and we will let you know if we are successful in securing one. In the meantime, check out the photo above and take a guess as to its identity. If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll still draw a winner at random from the correct entries and crown a “virtual” winner! All nature photos on this page were taken 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 media contact for more information.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation Always Advocates Firearms Safety and Proper Storage

GUN STORAGE FOR YOUR LIFESTYLE

As a gun owner, you can choose from multiple options for safely storing and protecting your firearms when they're not in use.

Use this guide to determine which mechanism best suits your lifestyle, priorities and environment.

A RANGE OF OPTIONS



CABLE LOCK

Price Range: \$10-\$50

A cable lock can be used on most firearms, allows for quick access in an emergency and offers security from theft. The cable runs through the barrel or action of a firearm to prevent it from being accidentally fired, requiring either a key or combination to unlock it.

AFFORDABLE

ACCESSIBLE

THEFT
DETERRENT



GUN CASE

Price Range: \$10-\$150

For those looking to conceal, protect or legally transport a registered firearm, a gun case is an affordable solution available in a variety of materials including plastic, fabric or metal. Be sure to lock it with an external device for added security.

AFFORDABLE

PORTABLE

PROTECTS
FROM DAMAGE



LOCK BOX

Price Range: \$25-\$350

With integrated locks, storage boxes provide reliable protection for firearms, and allow gun owners to legally transport them outside of their home.

PORTABLE

ACCESSIBLE

PROTECTS
FROM DAMAGE



ELECTRONIC LOCK BOX

Price Range: \$50-\$350

Electronic lock boxes are an effective way to store or legally transport firearms, and they also prevent theft since only the person with the code can access the contents. Some electronic lock boxes are specially designed for quick access to stored firearms.

PORTABLE

THEFT
DETERRENT

PROTECTS
FROM DAMAGE



FULL SIZE AND BIOMETRIC GUN SAFES

Price Range: \$200-\$2,500

A gun safe protects its contents from the elements and allows owners to safely store multiple firearms in one place. Gun safes of all sizes are now available with biometric options to ensure only certain people have access.

THEFT
DETERRENT

PROTECTS
FROM DAMAGE

VEHICLE STORAGE



CONSOLE STORAGE

Price Range: \$250 - \$300

A solution for those who need a truly secure place to store their firearm in a vehicle. These custom-fitted devices provide concealment to deter prying eyes and would-be thieves. Various access options are available, including biometric.

THEFT
DETERRENT
ACCESSIBLE
PROTECTS
FROM DAMAGE



CARGO AREA STORAGE

Price Range: \$500 - \$1,500

Effective for transporting firearms to the range or field, cargo area storage models are available for sedans, SUVs and trucks. These devices allow for locked storage, concealment and protection from bumps and jostling.

THEFT
DETERRENT
ACCESSIBLE
PROTECTS
FROM DAMAGE

SECURE STORAGE ACCESSORIES



WIRELESS GUN SAFE MONITOR

Price Range: \$150 - \$200

An electronic monitor can provide awareness and alert you if anyone is accessing your storage device or handling your firearm without your authorization. Some sound an audible alarm, others can be connected to your smartphone.

THEFT
DETERRENT
REMOTE MONITORING



ELECTRONIC HOLSTERS

Price Range: \$200 - \$300

Electronic holsters are a new type of secure storage device that enable fast access along with security to prevent unauthorized access. Holsters can be mounted or used independent of a mounting system and feature a programmable finger or thumbprint scan.

PORTABLE
ACCESSIBLE
THEFT
DETERRENT

PLEASE
HELP
PREVENT
ACCIDENTS.
STORE
FIREARMS
RESPONSIBLY.

These are just a few of the storage options available to firearms owners. For the greatest level of security, consider using a combination of safety mechanisms and educate family members about handling firearms properly.

To learn more about firearms safety, visit ProjectChildSafe.org



Project ChildSafe is a program of the National Shooting Sports Foundation®



HOW Supporting Member News



Egret Baits Releases New Colors For the Popular Vudu Shad

Many, LA – From the makers of the Original Vudu Shrimp, Egret Baits announces the new Vudu Shad. Made from **"TOUGH AS HELL"** TPE, the serrated tail articulates, creating a life-like swimming action – and the boot tail adds lift and thump to the lure. The tail section is constructed with a durable mesh weave which gives it strength and durability. It will outcast and outlast other plastics!

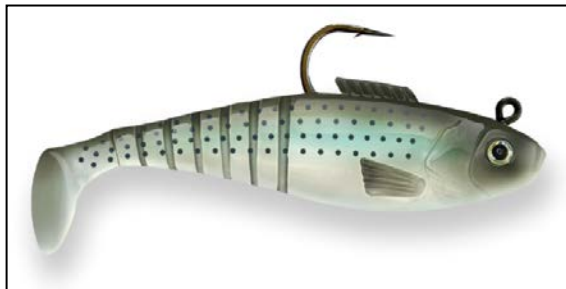
Vudu Shads are available in four sizes covering a wide range of both inshore and offshore applications. Many of the colors and styles can be used in both salt and fresh water. It is a great crossover series for Vudu Brands.

Available sizes: 3-inch, 1/4 oz
4-inch, 3/8 oz
5-inch, 3/4 oz
6-inch, 1 oz

New colors: Cajun Pepper Chartreuse (at top right)
Creole Magic (at middle right)
Striped (at bottom right)

The Vudu Shad is great for saltwater species like redfish and speckled trout, but it is also deadly for many freshwater species like bass, pike, muskies, stripers, trout and salmon. Check the Egret Baits website (www.egretbaits.com) for more details on the Vudu Shad and all of their other productive fishing lures.

Media Contact: HOW members should feel free to contact Jamie Burnett at Egret Baits (email: jamieburnett@egretbaits.com) for additional info and product images.



HOW Supporting Member News

Flying Fisherman Introduces New Sunglasses For 2022

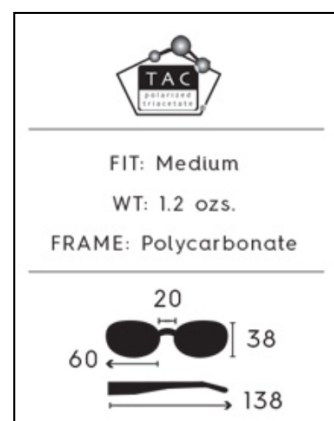


Islamorada, FL – Flying Fisherman has added the Sargasso model of polarized sunglasses to its 2022 collection of affordably priced eyewear for anglers and outdoor enthusiasts. The medium fit, lightweight sunglasses are built for adventure with performance and comfort features normally seen with higher priced eyewear, like recessed nose pads, non-slip temple pads, extra wide temples to help block side glare, and triacetate AcuTint™ polarized lenses.



Flying Fisherman's polarized, AcuTint™ lens coloring system enhances color contrast, without distorting natural colors, to provide the most productive lens tints for fishing. The enhanced visual sharpness and comfort maximizes the overall outdoors experience for anglers and water sports enthusiasts who benefit from seeing below the water to spot fish and other structure.

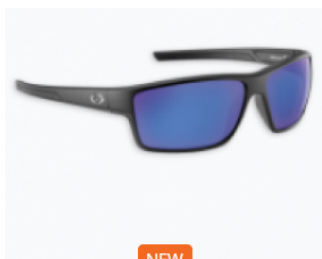
The Flying Fisherman Sargasso is available in five color combos – matte black frames with amber-green mirror, smoke-blue mirror, or smoke lenses, or matte camo frames with amber-green mirror or smoke-blue mirror lenses. The lenses themselves are hard coated for scratch resistance and eliminate annoying reflected glare. They also add clarity, sharpen details, and reduce eye strain, all at an affordable price



Founded in 1985 and headquartered in the Florida Keys, Flying Fisherman makes quality, affordable, sun-protective products for fishing and outdoor enthusiasts. For more info, visit: www.flyingfisherman.com.

Media Contact: Please contact Linda Sheldon for more information on any of the new or existing Flying Fisherman products (phone: 305-852-8989, email: linda@flyingfisherman.com).

Here are the new models for 2022:



NEW

Mojarra 7309

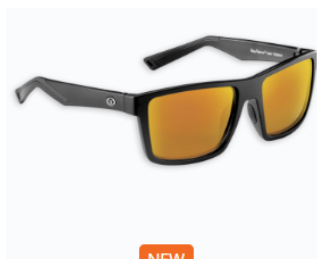
starting at \$69.95



NEW

Sargasso 7861

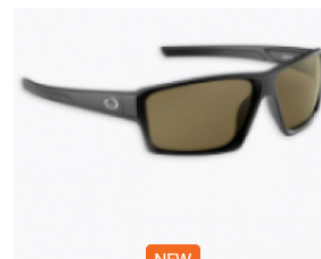
starting at \$24.95



NEW

Swirl 7826

starting at \$24.95



NEW

Windley 7374

starting at \$69.95

HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Al's Goldfish Company - www.alsgoldfish.com
Alps Brands - www.alpsbrands.com
Aquateko International - www.aquateko.com
Arctic Ice - www.arctic-ice.com
Artrip Float Company - www.artripfloatcompany.com
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Black River Tools - www.blackrivertools.com
Blackbird Products - www.blackbirdproducts.com
BoatUS - www.boatus.com
BOLT Locks - www.boltlock.com
Boomerang Tool Company - www.boomerangtool.com
BPI Outdoors - www.BPIguns.com
Bucket Grip - www.bucketgrip.com
Buff USA - www.buffusa.com
Caldwell - www.caldwellshooting.com
Celox Medical - www.stopbleedingkits.org
Church Tackle Company - www.churchtackle.com
Cocoons Eyewear - www.cocoonseyewear.com
Code Blue Scents - www.codebluescents.com
Daisy Outdoor Products - www.daisy.com
Danco Sports - www.dancopliers.com
Dardevle by Eppinger - www.dardevle.com
Ducks Unlimited - www.ducks.org
Egret Baits - www.egretbaits.com
Falcon Guides - www.falcon.com
Finn Tackle Company - www.finnspoons.com
Fish Monkey Gloves - www.fishmonkeygloves.com
Flying Fisherman - www.flyingfisherman.com
Frogg Toggs - www.froggtoggs.com
Glacier Glove - www.glacierglove.com
Hawke Sport Optics - www.hawkeoptics.com
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - www.henryUSA.com
HHA Sports - www.HHASports.com
Hi Mountain Seasonings - www.himtnjerky.com
Hofmann's Lures - www.hofmannslures.com
Hoosier Trapper Supply - www.hoosiertrappersupply.com
Hornady Manufacturing - www.hornady.com
Howard Leight Shooting Sports - www.howardleight.com
HT Enterprises - www.htent.com
Indiana Destination Development Corporation - www.visitindiana.com
Lawrence County Tourism - www.limestonecountry.com
LensPen - www.lenspen.com
Looter Lure - www.looterlure.com
Mack's Lure - www.mackslure.com
Mathews Archery - www.mathewsinc.com
MEC Outdoors - www.mecoutdoors.com
Mongo Attachments - www.mongoattachments.com
Moultrie Trail Cameras - www.moultriefeeders.com
National Shooting Sports Foundation - www.nssf.org
National Wild Turkey Federation - www.nwtf.org
Norsemen Outdoors - www.norsemenoutdoors.com
Nothead Tackle - www.notheadtackle.com
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - www.mossberg.com
Old Salt Angling - www.oldsaltangling.com
Otis Technology - www.otistec.com
Outdoor Sportsman Group - www.outdoorsg.com
PahaQue Wilderness - www.pahaque.com
Plano Synergy - www.planomolding.com
Pro-Cure Bait Scents - www.pro-cure.com
Pure Fishing - www.purefishing.com
Quaker Boy Game Calls - www.quakerboygamecalls.com
Rapala VMC - www.rapala.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
Roeslein Alternative Energy - www.roeslein.com
Seaguar Fishing Lines - www.seaguar.com
Shooter's Choice - www.shooters-choice.com
Sierra Bullets - www.sierrabullets.com
Smith's Products - www.smithsproducts.com
South Shore CVA - www.southshorecva.com
Speedhook Specialists - www.speedhook.com
Sporting Classics - www.sportingclassics.com
Spro Corporation - www.spro.com
Spypoint Trail Cameras - www.spypoint.com
St. Croix Rods - www.stcroixrods.com
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - www.ruger.com
Summit Treestands - www.summitstands.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
Tick Terminator - www.thetickterminator.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
White Flyer Targets - www.whiteflyer.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

ICAST Show 2022:

(www.ICASTfishing.org)

Orlando, FL

July 19-22, 2022

AGLOW 2022 Annual Conference:

(www.aglowinfo.org)

Chateau on the Lake Resort
Branson, MO

September 19-22, 2022

Indianapolis Fall Boat & RV Show:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

September 23-25, 2022

Fur Takers Chapter 7B Fall Rendezvous:

(www.hoosiertrappersupply.com)

Held at Hoosier Trapper Supply
Greenwood, IN

September 24, 2022

Ford Cincinnati Boat, Sport & Travel Show:

(www.CincySportShow.com)

Cincinnati, OH

January 20-22 & 25-29, 2023

Cincinnati Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo:

(www.CincySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

January 27-29, 2023

Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

February 17-19 & 22-26, 2023

Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

February 23-26, 2023

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*.