

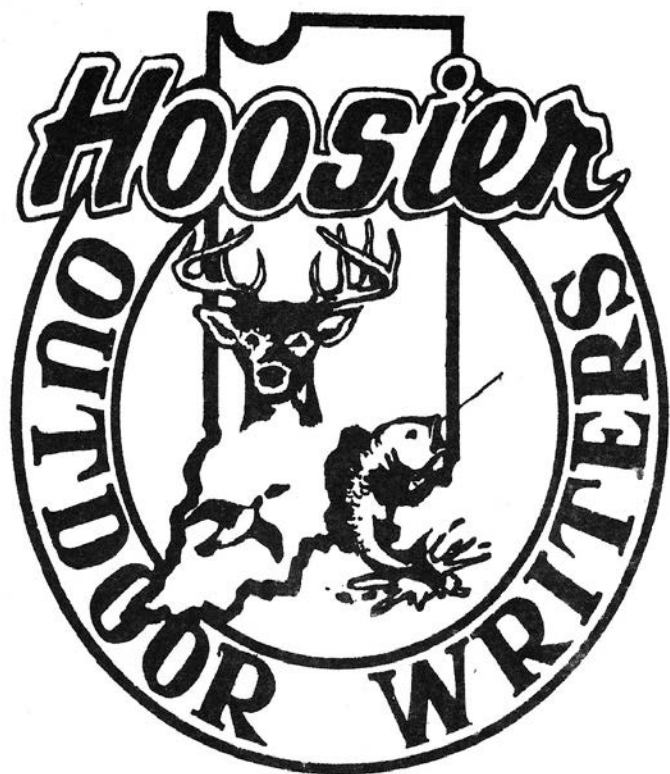
The Blade

July - August 2024

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Great Blue Heron Snacks on a Crayfish", 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

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

President

Bob Sawtelle
2350 Harrison Spring Rd NW
Corydon, IN 47112
blueriverbob1@gmail.com

Vice President

Marilyn Culler
204 S. Spring St
Greencastle, IN 46135
culler.photo@gmail.com

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

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Don Cranfill – 2026
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On the cover: A great blue heron makes a successful grab at an unsuspecting crayfish in the calm waters of a northern Wisconsin lake. Herons eat a variety of aquatic organisms, including small fish of all kinds, crayfish, frogs, snakes, worms, insects and even baby turtles. Photo by Tom Berg.

President's Message

by Ranger Bob Sawtelle

Waiting for the World to Change

And it has! I don't hike or even wade fish like I used to. But I can and do eagerly mount my E-bike to ride as both a joy and for exercise.

My E-bike, the Rambo Krusader, is a heavy duty electric motor-powered trail-worthy mountain bike. It has two 500-watt motors, one on each wheel. It has five (5) transmission speeds to assist in all road and trail grades and conditions. And equally important, disc brakes for each wheel with adjustable shock absorbers on the front.



To make it move you have two foot pedals and a rechargeable, large capacity battery. The more you pedal, even at a low assistance power, the longer your battery lasts. I can nurse my battery along for an easy twenty-mile ride. With the second battery carried in my saddle bags I can get forty-plus miles.

Where have I ridden and where do I ride? Everywhere I go! At home I am blessed with almost daily endless routes on county paved roads within the Blue River Valley of southern Indiana. My typical ride of climbs and descents lasts ninety minutes and covers almost twenty miles. The river and rural landscapes offer a wonderful and almost solitary riding experience. Urban sprawl is only now creeping in.

My Ford F250 carries my truck bed camper and sports a front Reese hitch. My bike rack is an easy mount and securely carries my E-bike forward of my front bumper. When I travel, my bike goes with me. I have pedaled the Island of Chokoloskee, Florida, the dirt two-track of the Mississippi dike of Tunica, Mississippi, the US Forest Service logging roads NE of Cody, Wyoming, the Yellowstone N.P. north jeep track, the access roadways of the Spotted Bear Ranger District of Hungry Horse, Montana and my old stomping grounds of Prichard, Idaho and the Coeur d'Alene River. Each destination has created its own adventure story.

One of my most recent and memory rides started at the historic Camp Buffalo Bill at the east entrance to Yellowstone National Park. They kindly let me camp along the Shoshone River and they fed me at their Boy Scout Lodge! I departed from the camp and embarked on the USFS logging roads. Lots of wildlife to view and a need to "stay bear aware". Warning signs were at every trail entrance. It was true. It was berry season and it seemed juicy fruity bear scat was everywhere along the trails and roads – like every thirty feet. It was a tense ride. On the way down the hills I slowed my pace, rode my brakes and hoped the squeaking brakes didn't sound like an elk calf. I sang the "HEY BEAR" song all the way to camp.

Following this report's theme title of "waiting for the world to change", I shifted my location to the North

(continued next page)

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Entrance at Gardiner, MT. The original entrance to Yellowstone still existed as a two track dirt jeep (wagon) trail, The Old Gardiner Road. It was open to jeep traffic when completely dry, but closed after even a light rain.

Bikes and foot traffic were always welcome. Close to sunrise, I would pedal away from Gardiner and head for Mammoth Hot Springs, 10 miles away. It was the rainy season so the trail remained closed to vehicle traffic for some extended time. Wildlife was at peace. It seemed like I was the solo human visitor on the trail. It is an uphill trek, so I used “some” electric motor assist”. It does make a soft hum when in use – just enough noise to move the elk and pronghorn off the trail. It didn’t spook them, it just moved them. Fortunately for me, I encountered not a single bison or bear. I’m pretty sure those beasts would not have been bothered by my noise.

When I arrived in Mammoth Hot Springs, I would go to their quant gift shop and breakfast bar to get a coffee and a burrito. I would then find an outside bench and watch the tourists arrive. Not as interesting as watching elk, but tourists can be entertaining as well. After breakfast and my rest, I would ride back to Gardiner. The high desert prairie is amazing. I enjoyed the ride so much that I repeated it every morning for a week and vowed to make this experience an annual event.

Then the world changed. On June 13, 2022, Yellowstone experienced a 500-year flood event. The North Entrance Road washed away in whole sections. It was closed and remains closed. What changed? The Park Service created a new entrance using the Old Gardiner Road. The wilderness route is gone as it disappeared under newly laid blacktop and the bumper-to-bumper traffic entering and exiting the National Park.

I’m so glad I experienced the Old Gardiner Road as the historic and wild entrance to the Yellowstone before it was consumed by change.

Lesson learned:

Enjoy the now, for tomorrow’s changes are forever coming.



The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents and Memorial Section

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

Brian Stone (Associate)
Terre Haute, IN
Sponsor: Tom Berg

Shipshewana/LaGrange County CVB (Supporting)
Shipshewana, IN
Sponsor: Tom Berg

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

Jack Alkire – HOW President 1979
Bill Beeman – Executive Director Emeritus
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
Larry Crecelius – HOW President 2003
Jerry Criss
Gary “Dox” Doxtater
Dick Forbes
Tom Glancy – HOW President 1977
Dale Griffith
Phil Hawkins
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
George Tilford
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 “Cork” 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
Phil Seng	2022
Jarrett Manek	2023



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 Mike Lunsford:

HOW member Mike Lunsford from Parke County is a serious birder and an excellent photographer. He made a trip to Celery Bog earlier this spring and found some interesting birds. Here is his report:

“Two birds in particular figured prominently in an early May trip to Celery Bog in West Lafayette,” remembered Lunsford. “That location is a favorite place for a short photo hike for me. In a matter of just a few hours, I ran across all sorts of birds: wrens, robins, orioles, redstarts, catbirds, and even a veery, but I spent the most time waiting for this handsome male **Common Yellowthroat** (*Geothlypis trichas*) to show himself to me (photo at right). I could hear him, but it took a half hour or so before I got a good look at him and snapped this photo.”

The common yellowthroat is one of North America’s most numerous warbler species, with an estimated global breeding population of some 77 million birds.



“I also saw a beautiful **White-Eyed Vireo** (*Vireo griseus*) at Celery Bog,” said Lunsford, “and it is one of my favorite birds to photograph (photo at left). But even though they are curious and will stay in an area with people – just out of curiosity – they don’t like to get out in the open very much.”

Interestingly, white-eyed vireos usually do not take a bath in puddles or birdbaths. Instead, they typically bathe by rubbing their body and feathers against dew-covered leaves in the early morning.

“It’s odd, but an hour or so later, as I stood near a vernal pool with my camera,” continued Lunsford, “I also heard and saw a red-eyed vireo. It was more than happy to give me a dozen clear shots, although it would have been nice if it had gotten out of the deep shade for me.”

See the next page for more bird photos and information.



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 Mike Schoonveld:

HOW Past President Mike Schoonveld from Newton County is not a turkey hunter, and that's a good thing for the recent feathered visitors to his property. Here is his report:

"I seem to be running a small turkey farm," commented Schoonveld. "There are now three hen **Wild Turkeys** (*Meleagris gallopavo*) and about 30 young turkey poults parading through my yard a few times a day. They usually come through all in one big group, too."



Schoonveld should go on the DNR turkey brood reporting

web page (on.IN.gov/turkeybrood) to report the turkey broods (see page 11)! Reports can be made until August 31.

Report from Bill Keaton:

HOW Legal Advisor Bill Keaton now lives near Spencer, Indiana, and he has lots of interesting birds on his property. Here is a quick report from him:

"A couple of years ago we had a presentation at our annual HOW meeting on threatened species in Indiana," remembered Keaton, "and one of those mentioned was the eastern meadowlark. When I listened to the lady speak, it was difficult for me to hold my peace because we have an abundance of meadowlarks every year. They nest in the open prairie field that we have, which is not tilled. I always wait until late July to mow it so I don't destroy nests, too. We have so many meadowlarks it is hard to know how many nests are there. They have a beautiful song and are prone to sitting on our fence posts to sing."



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.

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

For immediate release: July 1, 2024

State Parks, DNR Employee Honored by Invasives Management Group

Indiana State Parks were recently honored with the Partner of the Year award by State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) at the Indiana Invasives Species Conference at Abe Martin Lodge in Brown County State Park.

SICIM is a nonprofit whose mission is to protect, restore, and enhance Indiana's landscape by coordinating efforts to identify, prevent, and control invasive species (sicim.info).

At the conference, SICIM highlighted cooperative invasive species management areas (CISMAs), partners, and individuals who have gone above and beyond in their hard work and dedication to SICIM, their CISMAs, and communities throughout Indiana.

Indiana State Parks was awarded for placing significant emphasis on invasive species eradication. Last year, Indiana State Parks managed 12,000 acres for invasives removal and habitat diversity improvement, using tools such as prescribed fire, invasive removal contracts, and seasonal invasive removal crews, as well as Weed Wrangles® in partnership with SICIM.

Will Drews, a nursery inspector and compliance officer with the DNR Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology, a SICIM board member for nine years, and the organization's chair from 2019-2023, was honored with a departing board member award. During his tenure, Drews provided technical assistance to SICIM employees and various CISMAs and served on several SICIM committees. He previously served as the board's vice chair and secretary.

"Will has been a key part of moving SICIM to the successful organization it is today," said Teena Ligman, the current SICIM secretary.

For more information on invasive species please visit dnr.IN.gov/rules-and-regulations/invasive-species.

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

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

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

For immediate release: August 7, 2024

Fort Wayne Angler Catches State Record Spotted Gar From Rivir Lake at Chain O'Lakes State Park

Fort Wayne resident Kyle Hammond caught a 9-pound, 11-ounce spotted gar on Rivir Lake in Chain O'Lakes State Park on July 11, besting the previous Indiana state record of a 6-pound, 12.5-ounce fish caught in 2017 from a gravel pit in Vermillion County.

Hammond was targeting gar from his kayak and landed the record catch within 20 minutes of starting to fish. He was using a spinning rod and reel with a white zoom fluke.

The Hoosier angler captured the entire catch on video as part of his hobby of actively posting his fishing trips on his YouTube channel, Indiana Kayak Fishing Journal. Hammond is also the current state record holder for shortnose gar, having caught that record fish in 2021.



Gar are usually found in shallow water around vegetation and have been seen in 71% of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fisheries biologists' glacial lake surveys. Anglers who want to target the species or another Indiana sport fish can use DNR's [Fisheries Status & Trends dashboard](#) to find lakes where they are most abundant.

To learn more about Chain O'Lakes State Park, please see on.IN.gov/chainolakes.

To learn more about the Indiana Record Fish program, please see on.IN.gov/recordfish.

Learn about purchasing a fishing license at on.IN.gov/fishinglicense.

Media contact: Tyler Delauder, District 3 Fisheries Biologist, DNR Fish & Wildlife, phone: 260-244-6805, email: tdelauder@dnr.IN.gov.

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

For immediate release: July 8, 2024

Striped and Hybrid Striped Bass Stocked in Indiana Lakes

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) East Fork State Fish Hatchery recently completed annual striped bass and hybrid striped bass stockings. More than 78,000 striped bass fingerlings and 146,000 hybrid striped bass fingerlings were added to 12 lakes around the state. The stocked fish averaged 1–2 inches in length.

The breakdown of stockings of striped and hybrid striped bass by lake, with the respective counties listed in parentheses, was as follows:

- Worster Lake (St. Joseph) – 3,270 hybrids
- Cedar Lake (Lake) – 7,810 hybrids
- Lake Shafer (White) – 12,910 hybrids
- Nyona Lake (Fulton) – 1,040 hybrids
- Lake Freeman (Carroll and White) – 15,470 hybrids
- Clare Lake (Huntington) – 420 hybrids
- Shadyside Park Lake (Madison) – 1,000 hybrids
- Cecil M. Harden Lake (Parke) – 20,600 striped bass
- Brookville Lake (Union and Franklin) – 46,667 striped bass
- Monroe Lake (Monroe and Brown) – 53,750 hybrids
- Hardy Lake (Scott) – 1,000 striped bass and 7,000 hybrids
- Patoka Lake (Dubois, Crawford, and Orange) – 10,000 striped bass and 44,000 hybrids

Indiana anglers can look forward to continued quality striped and hybrid striped bass fishing opportunities in the coming years as a result of these stockings. To learn more about striped and hybrid striped bass fishing, visit bit.ly/striped-hybrid-bass-fishing.

Learn about purchasing a fishing license at on.IN.gov/fishinglicense.

Media contact:

Nathan Klein,
District 4 Fisheries Biologist,
DNR Fish & Wildlife,
phone: 317-864-1642, or
email: nklein@dnr.IN.gov.

Striped Bass



Hybrid Striped Bass



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

For immediate release: July 1, 2024

Report Your Observations of Wild Turkey Hens and Their Young to DNR

You can help the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) learn more about the state's wild turkey populations by reporting observations of hens with and without poults (chicks) through August 31.

Anybody who observes wild turkey hens with poults or hens without poults is encouraged to report their observations online at DNR's turkey brood reporting web page, on.IN.gov/turkeybrood. Observations take only a few minutes to report, and no log-in is required.

The survey will be open from July 1 through August 31, with a goal of receiving 3,000 observations across the state during that time.

DNR uses the reported observations to monitor wild turkey reproduction and calculate the state's poult-to-hen ratio, or Production Index (PI). The information gathered from the survey will be made available to the public in the annual Wild Turkey Brood Report.

"Statewide turkey populations appear to be stable in Indiana, and monitoring hens and poults gives DNR a better understanding of population trends across the state," said DNR furbearer and turkey research biologist Andy Byers. "Observations reported by the public are an important part of helping DNR manage wild turkeys."

For more information on how to identify turkey broods, as well as look at past survey reports, visit on.IN.gov/turkeybrood. Photo by Dan Kaiser.

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



Media contact: Andy Byers, Furbearer & Turkey Research Biologist, DNR Fish & Wildlife, phone: 812-340-9878, email: anbyers@dnr.IN.gov.

Forest Service News Release

Media Contact:
Quentin Melson, Public Affairs Specialist
(812) 276-4753
quentin.melson@usda.gov
<https://fs.usda.gov/hoosier>

Storm Damage Causes Temporary Closure of Hoosier National Forest Trails and Campsite

Bedford, IN – (July 19, 2024) Due to recent storm damage, the Charles C. Deam Wilderness Peninsula Trail and the Pate Hollow Trail system, both in the Hoosier National Forest, have been temporarily closed until further notice.

In addition to these trails, Campsites 12 and 21 in the Charles C. Deam Wilderness are also closed.

The area surrounding the Peninsula Trail contains fallen trees, branches and other storm damage, so visitors are encouraged to avoid the area.

Visitors are also encouraged to stay on established trails and not make detours or cut throughs so as not to worsen the trail conditions.



Forest Service staff at the Hoosier National Forest are working hard to clear debris and assess storm damage throughout the northern part of the forest, including the Charles C. Deam Wilderness, affected by the June 25 storm.

The Pate Hollow Trail is currently being cleared, but the amount of damage is extensive and it could take several months to complete. Staff are analyzing the best approach for the Peninsula Trail due to specific wilderness management issues. Visitors should be aware the Peninsula Trail is expected to be closed into the fall or later. Additional personnel and equipment will likely be needed to clear all the trees following wilderness management guidelines.

The Charles C. Deam Wilderness was designated as a wilderness in 1982. This designation places the area in a special legal status that puts restrictions on what activities can be conducted. Restricted activities include the use of mechanized equipment.

Forest Service staff at the Hoosier National Forest will work within all restrictions put in place on Deam wilderness area when repairing storm damage.

Most of the designated campsites in the Deam Wilderness have been assessed for damage, but not all, so forest visitors are encouraged to use caution when visiting the area. Designated campsites on or near the Monroe Lake shoreline can be accessed by non-motorized boat. Visitors can check the forest's website (fs.usda.gov/Hoosier) and social media for updates.

From the Indiana DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife:

Attention Anglers: We Could **REELY** Use Your Help.

Yes, we know “reely” is not the correct spelling of “really”. It’s simply a play on words (or letters) since this page is all about eels – American eels, to be exact.

The American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) is one of the fish on Indiana's Species of Greatest Conservation Need list. Unlike some other rare fish species, the American eel cannot be easily captured or monitored using traditional fisheries survey techniques; rather, biologists rely on reports from anglers. Angler observations are critical to help us better understand the American eel's distribution in the state.



While this species may resemble a snake, the two small pectoral fins along the side of its body (just behind its head) help identify it as a fish. The American eel is highly secretive, normally feeding at night in the state's larger rivers. During the day, it often hides in logjams, rock piles, or other cracks and crevices along the shoreline or stream bottom.

If you are out fishing and happen to catch an eel, please snap a quick, clear photo of it if possible. You can then email the photo to FishID@dnr.IN.gov along with the date it was caught, the river or stream or lake where it was caught, and the general location (closest



bridge, town, boat ramp, etc).

These images are courtesy of the Indiana DNR. To learn more about the unique American Eel, including where they might be found in Indiana, click the following link:

https://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/files/fw-american_eel.pdf.

SPECIAL INVITATION



ANNUAL CONFERENCE KENTUCKY LAKE SEPT 22-26, 2024

This special invitation is being offered to outdoor media producers to receive a **complimentary annual membership** in the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers so that they may attend the annual conference at Kentucky Lake. Conference registration is only \$100 and includes all meals, cocktail hours, seminars, learn-it sessions, and excursions. This is a wonderful opportunity to network with other outdoor communicators, tourism, corporate and conservators representatives from around the industry. If you would like to attend or would like more information about the conference schedule, copy and paste this address

<https://theoutdoorfeed.org/2024-aglow-annual-conference/>

If you register for the event please do so as “Non Member Media” and then shoot me an email at aglowoutdoors@gmail.com and let me know that you have done so and I will get your membership set up. Feel free to reach out to me with questions.

*Thanks, Mark C. Smith, Executive Director
aglowoutdoors@gmail.com*

HOW Member News

Brian Waldman Catches Giant Crappies in His New Home State of South Carolina

HOW member Brian Waldman loves bass fishing, but he is also a first-rate crappie fisherman. Here is a recent report from him:

“After nearly a lifetime of living and fishing in Indiana (55 of my 59 years), my wife and I made the decision to buy and move to our retirement home in South Carolina late last year,” said Waldman. “As an avid angler, I was looking forward to things like little to no snow, and being able to launch my boat on open water and fish all winter long. I knew that fishing and having to learn all new waters was going to be challenging, as well as exciting.”

“Nearly a year into this adventure now, I can say the bass fishing has been pretty much what I expected. I haven’t found any great fisheries in terms of numbers nearby, but I have caught plenty of fish, including a good number of bass between three and seven pounds. No massive double digit fish, or other similar giants, but I’m hopeful that I’ll find a couple big girls somewhere along the way.”

“The crappie fishing, on the other hand...”

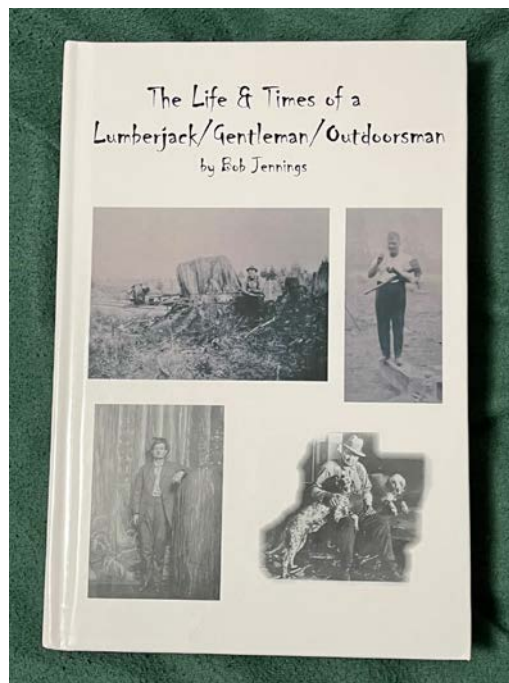


“Much to my delight, I’ve now caught 48 crappie of two pounds or better since moving here, a size I only hit a handful of times in Indiana despite catching literally tens of thousands of these fish. Even more surprising to me, I’ve been able to land five crappie of three pounds or larger, the two best weighing 3.46 pounds and 3.50 pounds.”

“These are fish that are on par with some of the country’s best “big crappie” lakes like Grenada, Enid and Barnett Reservoir in Mississippi. They are also a size that most crappie anglers only dream of catching one day, much like a ten pound bass is to a bass angler.”

“Needless to say, I’m enjoying this “secret” big fish fishery for now, and hopeful that it lasts for a few more years before the word gets out.”

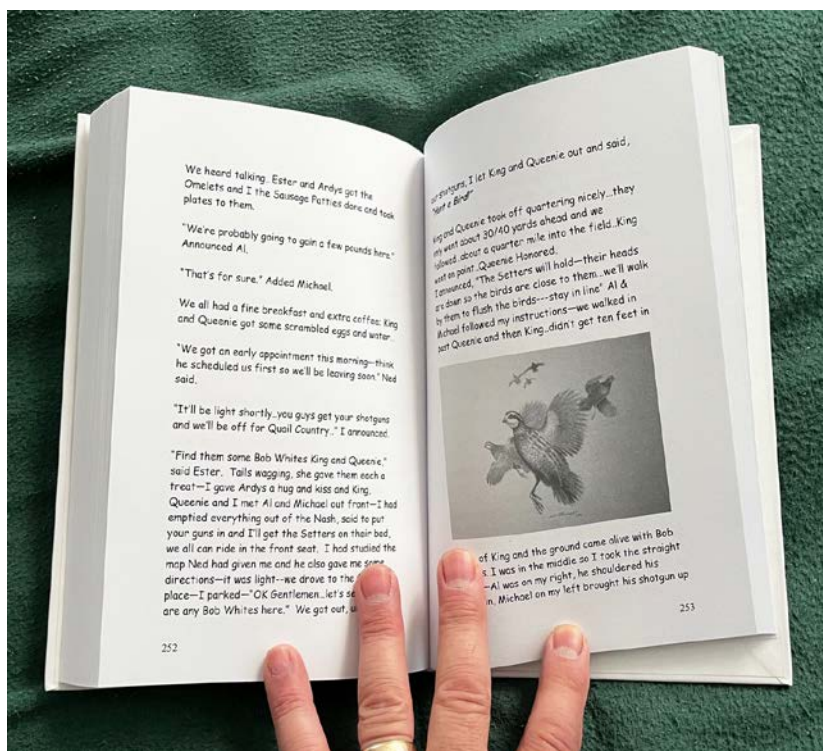
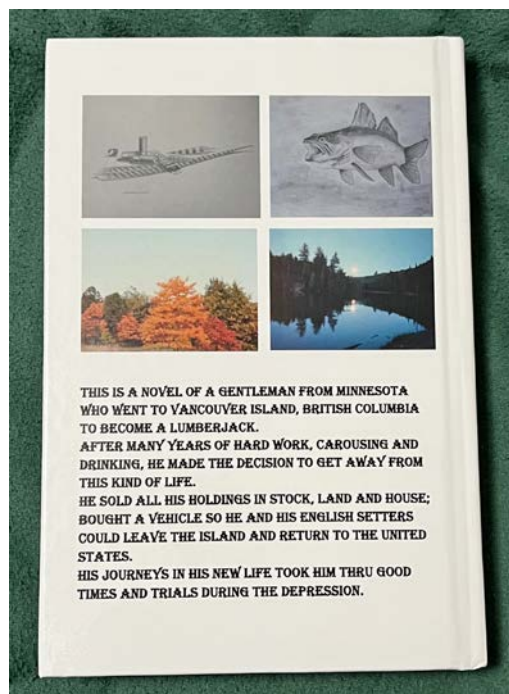
Brian Waldman displays two of his trophy-sized South Carolina black crappies that tipped the scales at three pounds or more. Photos courtesy of Brian Waldman.



Author Bob Jennings Releases New Book

Longtime HOW member Bob Jennings recently self-published his first full-length novel, titled: *The Life & Times of a Lumberjack/Gentleman/Outdoorsman*. This is a hardcover book. HOW Executive Director Tom Berg served as editor for the book and helped with some of the computer details when preparing the manuscript for printing.

Jennings said: "If any HOW members are interested in obtaining a copy of my new novel, please email me and let me know. There is no obligation to buy – I'm just assessing interest. If I get enough interest I will have a run of this book made in a softback edition. I'm not sure what the price will be yet as it will depend on how many copies I have made."



HOW Members Are Invited to the 2024 AGLOW Conference at Kentucky Lake

Please see the official invitation from Mark Smith, the Executive Director of the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers (AGLOW) on page 14. All HOW media producers are invited to the upcoming AGLOW conference at Kentucky Lake next month, from September 22-26. The conference registration is only \$100 and includes all meals, cocktail hours, seminars, learn-it-do-it sessions and excursions. To make it even better, all HOW members who attend the conference will receive a complimentary annual membership in AGLOW (current dues are normally \$100). It's a great deal. See page 14 for more details and be sure to check out the AGLOW website, too: www.aglowinfo.org.

Mike Lunsford Earns “Best of Show” At River City Art Association Exhibit

HOW member Mike Lunsford is no stranger to the podium when it comes to winning photography and writing awards. So it should be no surprise that he was recently honored with a "Best of Show" award at the annual River City Art Association exhibit at First Financial Plaza in Terre Haute.

Lunsford's photo entry, "**Morning Coffee**" was chosen by jurist Amy MacLennan, curator at the Swope Art Museum, over 80 other entries.

Lunsford was awarded a \$200 prize for his efforts.

Photo at Right:

Mike Lunsford accepts his 'Best of Show' award from museum curator Amy MacLennan. He is also holding the prize-winning photo from the recent River City Art Association exhibit. Photo courtesy of Mike Lunsford.



Bill Keaton Observes an Abundance of Wildlife Near His New Rural Owen County Home

HOW Legal Advisor Bill Keaton said this has been an interesting summer for reptiles, amphibians, and birds. "I have seen wood frogs, five-lined skinks and a broadhead skink around my house," he reported. "As birds go, every year we have killdeer nesting along our driveway, lots of meadowlarks and usually at least one summer tanager. This year was not disappointing."

"Every year we have lived in our new home, we have had several pairs of killdeer nesting in the stone along the side of our driveway. We always mark the nests with flags to alert delivery people not to drive over the nests. When the eggs hatch, it is a joy to watch the tiny little plovers scurry around at the edge of the drive."

"I needed to move a beehive this summer, and when I took the hive out of my front-end loader bucket, there was a broadhead skink (shown above) in the bucket which must have been hiding in the bottom of the hive. I returned it to where the hive had been prior to moving it. All in all, the wildlife has been beautiful and plentiful this summer at our new home."



Mike Lunsford Celebrates a Special “Oriole Year” in Parke County

HOW member Mike Lunsford has seen a lot of Baltimore Orioles come and go on his southern Parke County property over the years, but he doesn’t believe he’s ever had as good a year with them as 2024.

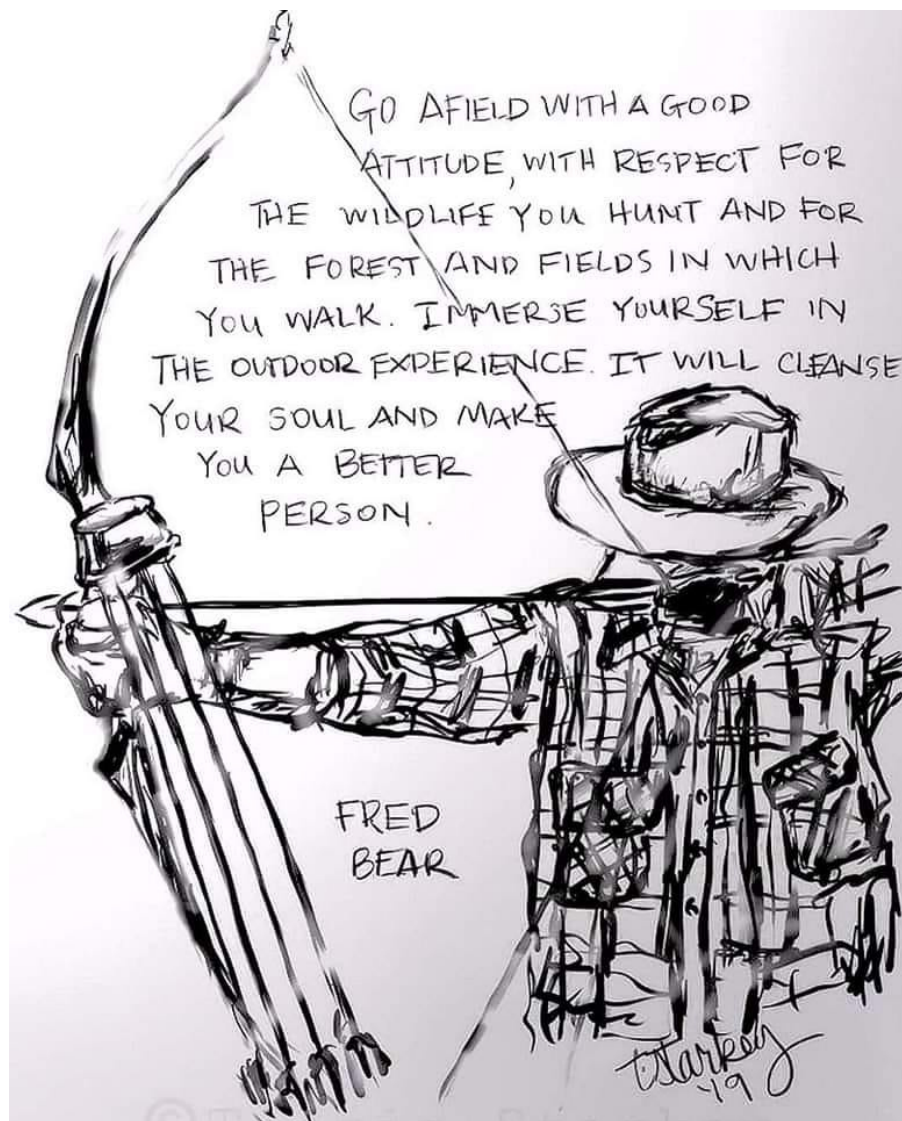
“I have found oriole nests around our place over the past few summers, so I know some birds stay through the nesting season each spring, but they have really persisted through this entire summer here,” Lunsford said. “We are still regularly seeing the offspring of the adults we first saw in April (it is mid-August at this writing), so I believe our efforts to keep them fed have paid off. We must also have the right combination of mulberry trees and pokeberries, and other fruits for them.”

Of the nine species of orioles in the world, only two of them – Baltimore and orchard orioles – come to Indiana, and usually it is for a fairly short time. The birds love grape jelly and oranges, but they also enjoy a daily source of water and will eat mealworms and suet if you provide them. Lunsford says the orioles on his property have been visiting his wife’s hummingbird feeders, too, primarily those with large enough ports for them to drink from. They also like to drink from the ant barriers atop each feeder that hold water.

“Orioles are wonderful birds with beautiful songs, and they are so amazing to see,” he continued. “I usually see a few orchard orioles here in early spring, too, but they are easy to look past. Not the brightly-colored Baltimore orioles, though. We hope both species continue to make our place a regular stop.”



Top: A bright orange male Baltimore oriole rests on a tree branch. **Above:** An inquisitive young female Baltimore oriole stops for a moment before flying away. **At Left:** A male orchard oriole poses for a quick photo session. Oriole photos by Mike Lunsford.



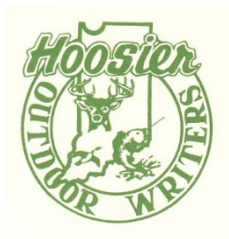
Membership Changes and Member Contact Info

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

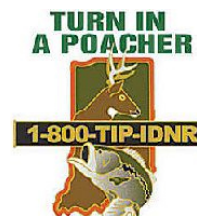
Brian Stone: 48 Barton Ave., Terre Haute, IN 47803, phone: 618-303-5248,
Email: brianjstone81@gmail.com

Shipshewana/LaGrange County CVB: 350 S. Van Buren St., Suite H, Shipshewana, IN 46565,
Media contact: Miranda Beverly, phone: 260-768-4008,
Email: miranda@lagrangepcountycvb.org
Website: www.visitshipshewana.org

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.



Hoosier Outdoor Writers Turn in a Poacher/Polluter Writing Contest Official 2024 Contest Guidelines



Once again, the Indiana Turn in a Poacher (TIP) Citizen's Advisory Board is sponsoring a writing contest to encourage HOW members to promote the TIP mission and the hotline. This year prizes are again **\$500 for first place; \$300 for second place; \$200 for third place.** Be sure to write your TIP article right away!

Requirements are simple and entering is easy! Article must be at least 400 words in length and must include:

1. Brief description of TIP (see below—does not have to be verbatim)
2. TIP Hotline (1-800-TIP-IDNR)

Although it is not required, preference will be given to stories that:

- Feature a compelling story that demonstrates how TIP can help conserve or protect fish and wildlife for the people of Indiana.
- Are published in paid publications.

To enter, submit an electronic copy of an article published between **January 1, 2024** and **December 31, 2024**. The TIP Citizen's Advisory Board will review all entries and will select the entries that best promote the mission of TIP and encourage citizens to get involved.

Entries should be marked as "TIP" entries and sent to Contest Coordinator Phil Seng (phil@djcase.com). They must be emailed by March 1, 2025.

What is TIP?

Turn in a Poacher and Polluter, Inc. (TIP) is a non-profit conservation organization that works hand-in-hand with Indiana DNR Law Enforcement to protect our fish and wildlife resources by increasing public support and involvement in bringing violators to justice.

A poacher is a thief who illegally steals wildlife that belongs to each Indiana citizen. Poachers rob licensed, ethical hunters and anglers from recreational opportunities they bought through license fees. Pollution kills Indiana's valuable fish and wildlife resources and harms habitat.

Citizens can help stop poachers and polluters in two ways. If you see, hear or learn about a poacher or pollution that results in the death of fish and wildlife, or any other fish and wildlife violation:

- Call 1-800-TIP-IDNR
- Submit a TIP online at www.tip.IN.gov

If your TIP leads to an arrest, you may receive as much as a \$500 reward, and you can remain anonymous. More information is available at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2745.htm>

Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors

Sponsored by Falcon Guide Books

The Common Yellowthroat is an Insect Specialist



Close-up



Original



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was tougher than usual, since it was correctly identified by

only three (3) HOW members. Brian Waldman, Mike Lunsford, and Phil Cox were all able to identify it. When we drew a name at random for the **Z-Man Fishing** prize package, Phil Cox was the lucky winner. Congrats, Phil! We will send the prize to you in the mail.

As can be seen in the photo to the left, the mystery creature for this issue was a female Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Like many birds, the female of the species is much less colorful than the male, which helps deter predators from seeing her when she is on her nest.

Male common yellowthroats have a bright yellow throat and breast, and a jet-black face mask that helps conceal their coal-black eyes. Although the bird shown here is a female, look at page 6 to see Mike Lunsford’s beautiful photo of a male common yellowthroat.

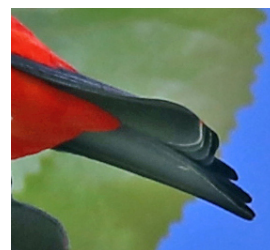
The common yellowthroat is just one of many warbler species, and like other warblers it is mostly an insect eater. They eat plenty of small spiders, too. They flit from branch to branch and from one plant stalk to another, picking off bugs as they go. Some of their favorite foods are caterpillars, ants, beetles, gnats, flies, moths, bees and leafhoppers.

For this issue, our friends at **Falcon Guide Books** have donated a nice prize package for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be four different guide books, including edible plants and foraging guides, and HOW member Phil Bloom’s *Hiking Indiana* guide! See below for more info.

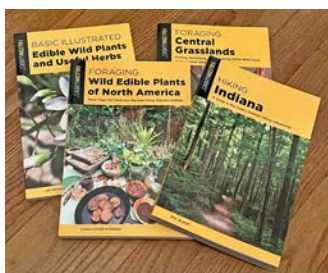
FALCONGUIDES®

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 at certain times of the year, and if you are lucky you might even see it in your own back yard. Does it look familiar? Have you ever seen this color pattern when spending time outdoors?



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? This time you will have to identify the exact species. If you think it’s a species of beetle, for example, go ahead and guess “Stag Beetle” (of course, it’s not a beetle). If you think you know the answer, send an email to thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you’re right, you’ll be entered in this issue’s prize drawing!



As mentioned, **Falcon Guide Books** (www.falconguides.com) has donated a very nice assortment of outdoors guide books for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw a winner at random from the pool of correct entries. All photos on this page are 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.

LensPen® Introduces Smartphone Lens Cleaner

Vancouver, BC, Canada – LensPen has introduced Smarty, a cleaner specially designed to clean smartphone lenses. Smarty features the LensPen proprietary carbon cleaning technology to remove dirt, dust and fingerprints from all smartphone camera lenses.

“With smartphones so prevalent now, nearly everyone has a camera in their pocket or purse,” said Ryan Keating, executive vice president of sales and marketing for LensPen. “And it’s inevitable that the lens will pick up dust or fingerprints, which can ruin a photo. That’s where Smarty comes in.”

Smarty is easy to use. Twist the cap off and gently clean the lens with the soft cleaning tip. If some smudges persist, breathe gently on the surface and repeat. When done, twist the cap back on and the cleaning tip is replenished.

Smarty is only 2” long and fits easily in a pocket or purse. The LensPen Smarty Smartphone Bundle includes both a Smarty and a LensPen smartphone card holder.

The Smarty Smartphone Bundle is available at www.lenspen.com and www.amazon.com.

About LensPen: For more than 25 years, LensPen products have safely and effectively cleaned lenses and other fine optics, including LCD sensors, scopes, drones, AR/VR headsets, eyeglasses, tablets and phones. LensPen cleans in all environments from desert heat to Arctic cold to outer space. Each LensPen product will provide hundreds of cleanings.



Media Contact: For more information, please contact Ken Ables at the Venture Agency by phone: 619-851-2503 or by email: kenables09@gmail.com. HOW members may also visit the LensPen website at www.lenspen.com.



HOW Supporting Member News

GameGrip Adhesive Strips from WildTech Helps Make Processing Your Own Game Meat Easy

Baker City, OR: WildTech was founded in 2022 by brothers Brad and Doug Schwin – guys who share a passion for wild things and wild places. Being life-long outdoor enthusiasts, they enjoy any activity that places them outside, but their first love is chasing elk and deer in the remote public lands of the West. Over the course of many years of outdoor adventures, they began to recognize a number of issues that hunters and outdoor enthusiasts routinely encounter in the field, many of which had yet to be properly addressed in the outdoor gear space. They set out on a quest to develop solutions to these issues to enhance the enjoyment and quality of time spent in the wild. From that pursuit, WildTech was born.

The first WildTech product available to consumers is the GameGrip food-safe adhesive strips. These convenient strips are specifically designed to safely remove hair and debris from your game meat. Each strip uses an incredibly sticky, food-grade adhesive that is FDA compliant for direct food contact. The adhesive is effective in both dry and damp conditions and functions well in temperatures ranging from 10°F to 150°F.

Each re-sealable GameGrip pack contains 10 food-safe adhesive strips. Each strip has a 4" x 7.5" adhesive area and a 1/2" dry edge on each end for easy handling. Typically, one pack can treat 1-2 big game carcasses. Since GameGrip does not expire, any unused strips can be saved for the next season.

FEATURES:

- Non-Toxic & Food-Safe
Each strip contains a non-toxic, extremely sticky adhesive that is safe for direct food contact. This adhesive is highly effective at removing hair and other loose debris from game meat, resulting in a cleaner, better-tasting final product.
- Lightweight & Portable
Specifically designed for backcountry use, each pack weighs 2.8 oz and measures just 5.5" wide x 11.5" long x 3/16" thick. Allows for easy storage in any backpack.
- All-Weather Performance
GameGrip works in both dry and damp conditions and maintains effectiveness in temps from -10°F to +150°F. Regardless of when or where you hunt, GameGrip will perform reliably.
- Field to Table Meat Care
GameGrip ensures your game meat remains clean from the field to your table, enhancing the quality and taste of your harvest.
- Packable
Its compact size makes it easy to carry, adding no significant weight to your pack.
- Any Season
Designed for year-round use, GameGrip remains effective in a wide range of temperatures, making it suitable for all hunting seasons.
- Does Not Expire
GameGrip strips do not have an expiration date, allowing unused strips to be saved for future use.
- Made in USA
Proudly made in the USA, ensuring high-quality standards and supporting local manufacturing.
- Versatility
Suitable for use on various game species, including deer, elk, pronghorn, caribou, moose, bear, wild boar, squirrel and more.



Media Contact: For more information, please contact Doug Schwin at WildTech by email: doug@wildtechgear.com. HOW members may also visit the WildTech website at www.wildtechgear.com.

HOW Supporting Member News

Outdoor Edge® Unveils the New ErgoMax 6-Piece Processing Knife Set

Denver, CO: Outdoor Edge®, America's leading manufacturer of knives and tools for outdoor enthusiasts, proudly introduces its latest innovation: The ErgoMax 6-piece Processing Knife Set. The set comes in a striking clear acrylic case with a blow-molded bottom, a first-of-its-kind design that allows customers to view the knives at retail without opening the case.

The ErgoMax Knife Set features five best-in-class knives, each equipped with a razor-sharp, premium black titanium-coated 5Cr15Mov blade. This blade material offers optimal strength, edge retention, and corrosion resistance while providing easy sharpening. The set includes:

- **8-inch Granton Butcher Knife** – The blade's scalloped grind reduces friction, making it perfect for slicing through steak, trimming briskets, and breaking down large roasts.
- **6-inch Semi-Stiff Straight Boning Knife** – Ideal for plunge cuts while separating large muscle groups.
- **6-inch Flexible Curved Boning Knife** – Best suited for precise cuts and detailed work while working around bones.
- **5-inch Deep Belly Skinner** – Inspired by the cattle industry, this knife delivers long cutting strokes for effective cutting.
- **4.5-inch Drop Point Knife** – Designed for controlled cuts and particularly useful for working beneath the skin and separating joints.

Each knife features the ErgoMax handle, a triple shot molded handle with a soft touch white hex pattern, and a grey palm swell and thumb ramp, providing excellent grip and maneuverability, even when wet.

Additionally, the set includes an Edge-X two-stage sharpener to keep your knives in top condition. The sharpener features a coarse carbide and fine ceramic bit for optimal edge maintenance.

This ErgoMax Knife 6-Piece Processing Knife Set is available for shipping with a suggested retail price of \$99.99. For more information and to explore the full range of Outdoor Edge products for hunters, anglers, everyday carry, utility use, and game processing, visit www.outdooredge.com.

About Outdoor Edge: Founded in 1988 and headquartered in Denver, Outdoor Edge is a leading designer and manufacturer of knives and tools. Outdoor Edge continues to innovate and develop revolutionary products for hunters, outdoor enthusiasts, handymen and anyone who requires the very best knives and tools available for leisure, work and everyday-carry needs. The company prides itself in technology and innovation through its patented RazorSafe™ replaceable blade system, offering a variety of knife handles and blade profiles so you never have to sharpen your knife again, no matter the task. All knives and tools undergo extensive field-testing in harsh, rugged environments resulting in durable, long-lasting products that come with a lifetime guarantee. Outdoor Edge is a Revo Brands company.

Media Contact: For more info, please contact Karen Lutto Leatherwood at Hunter Outdoor Communications by email: karen@hunteroc.com or by phone: 804-539-6699 (cell). HOW members may also visit the Hunter Outdoor Communications website at www.hunteroc.com.



HOW Supporting Member News



HOW Supporting Members Win Awards at 2024 ICAST Show

Orlando, FL: The 2024 ICAST show (International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades) held in Florida from July 16-19 was another great one, showcasing the products of many of the premier companies in the fishing tackle industry. More than 14,000 media and industry representatives from the global sportfishing industry (75 countries) attended the show to see the latest and greatest innovations in fishing gear, tackle, accessories and apparel. This year, 260 companies entered nearly 1,000 new products into the show's revered New Product Showcase for a chance to be recognized with a "Best of Category" honor. A total of 41 category winners took home a prestigious prize as the top product in their class.

Just like last year, many of the top new product awards were won by our innovative **HOW Supporting Members**. Here is the list of **Best of Category** winners from our HOW corporate members:

Rod & Reel Combo

St. Croix Rod

GXR Bass Systems

Contact: [Josh Lantz](#)



Freshwater Soft Lure

Z-Man Fishing Products

Shadtron LT (Line-Through) Swimbait

Contact: [Cory Schmidt](#)



Saltwater Soft Lure

Z-Man Fishing Products

PrawnstarZ

Contact: [Cory Schmidt](#)



Eyewear

Costa

Costa 580G Gold Mirror Lens - Grand Catalina

Contact: [Becca Katz](#) (Verde Brand Communications)



Terminal Tackle

Rapala

VMC Redline Series Tungsten Swimbait Jig

Contact: [Stephen Dupont](#) (Pocket Hercules)



Fishing Line

Rapala

Sufix Revolve – Ultra Thin Finesse Braid

Contact: [Stephen Dupont](#) (Pocket Hercules)



Novelties

Rapala

USA Rapala Giant Lure

Contact: [Stephen Dupont](#) (Pocket Hercules)

For more information on **ICAST** and each of the category winners, check out the ICAST website: www.icastfishing.org.

HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Al's Goldfish Company - www.alsgoldfish.com
Alps Brands - www.alpsbrands.com
Archery Trade Association - www.archerytrade.org
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Black River Tools - www.blackrivertools.com
BoatUS - www.boatus.com
BOLT Locks - www.boltlock.com
Bow Spider - www.bowspider.com
BPI Outdoors - www.BPIguns.com
Cauldryn - www.cauldryn.com
Church Tackle Company - www.churchtackle.com
Cocoons Eyewear - www.cocoons.com
Costa - www.costadelmar.com
Daisy Outdoor Products - www.daisy.com
Danner Boots - www.danner.com
Dardevle by Eppinger - www.dardevle.com
Ducks Unlimited - www.ducks.org
Egret Baits - www.egretbaits.com
Falcon Guides - www.falconguides.com
Finn Tackle Company - www.finnspoons.com
Flying Fisherman - www.flyingfisherman.com
Gapen Company - www.gapen.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
Hornady Manufacturing - www.hornady.com
Indiana Destination Development Corporation - www.visitindiana.com
Kehrer Fish Company - www.kehrerfishcompany.com
L&S Bait Company - www.shopmirrolure.com
LaCrosse Footwear - www.lacrossefootwear.com
LensPen - www.lenspen.com
Li'L Tuffy Swim-bait - www.ramblingangler.com
Mack's Lure - www.mackslure.com
MEC Outdoors - www.mecoutdoors.com
Mepps by Sheldons', Inc - www.mepps.com
Mister Twister - www.mistertwister.com
Mongo Attachments - www.mongoattachments.com
Nat'l Shooting Sports Foundation - www.nssf.org
National Wild Turkey Federation - www.nwtf.org

Nesco Vacuum Sealers - www.nesco.com
Norsemens Outdoors - www.norsemensoutdoors.com
Nosler - www.nosler.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 Edge - www.outdooredge.com
Pheasants Forever - www.pheasantsforever.org
Pro-Cure Bait Scents - www.pro-cure.com
Rapala VMC - www.rapala.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
Seaguar Fishing Lines - www.seaguar.com
Shipshewana/LaGrange County CVB - www.visitshipshewana.org
Shooter's Choice - www.shooters-choice.com
SKRE Gear - www.skregear.com
Smith's Products - www.smithsproducts.com
Speedhook Specialists - www.speedhook.com
Sporting Classics - www.sportingclassics.com
Spypoint Trail Cameras - www.spypoint.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
Traveler's Guide to Firearms Laws of 50 States - www.bookvalueusa.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - www.ttiblakemore.com
Van Vuuren African Safaris - www.vvasafaris.com
Vexilar, Inc. - www.vexilar.com
Vortex Optics - www.vortexoptics.com
Whitetails Unlimited - www.whitetailsunlimited.com
WildTech - www.wildtechgear.com
Winchester Ammunition - www.winchester.com
W.R. Case - www.wrcase.com
Yakima Bait Company - www.yakimabait.com
Z-Man Fishing - www.zmanfishing.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

OWAA 2024 Conference:

(www.owaa.org)

El Paso, TX

September 20-22, 2024

Indianapolis Fall Boat & RV Show:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

September 20-22, 2024

AGLOW 2024 Conference:

(www.aglowinfo.org)

Kentucky Lake, KY

September 23-27, 2024

Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

February 14-16 & 19-23, 2025

Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

February 21-23, 2025

HOW 2025 Annual Conference:

(www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org)

Clifty Inn, Clifty Falls State Park

Madison, IN

April 4-6, 2025

(Annual meeting on April 5)

POMA 2025 Conference:

(www.professionalloutdoormedia.org)

Toledo, OH

June 23-25, 2025

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*.