

# The Blade

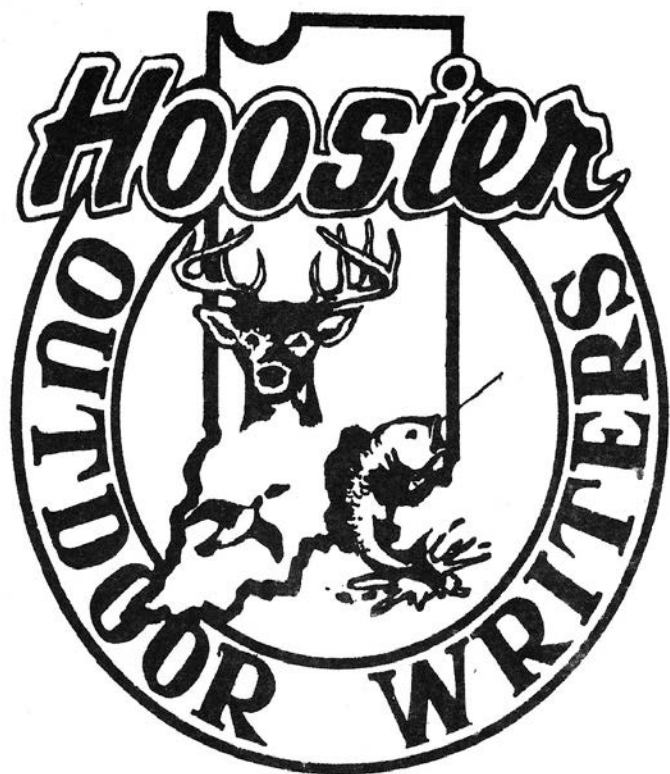
September - October 2024

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Drake Wood Ducks on Calm Waters", photo by Tom Berg





# Hoosier Outdoor Writers

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

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**On the cover:** A pair of handsome male wood ducks meander quietly through the wood-choked waters of a local marsh. Many people consider the wood duck to be the most beautiful duck species in North America, and who can argue? Photo by Tom Berg.

# President's Message

*by Ranger Bob Sawtelle*

## Be Passionate

I recently spent a few days with my friend and fellow HOW member Ken McBroom and his wife Tammi at their Kentucky Lake home. I had texted him earlier with my question of “how’s your crappie fishing going?”

His response was – “COME ON!” I interpreted that to mean “Where have you been – why haven’t you been here already – and when are you coming?”

Say no more! I keep a seasonal overnight bag at the ready. Sunshine or rain, hot or cold I have it packed and by the door. A few days later and a four hour drive behind me, I arrived near dawn at the Sportsman’s Lodge and Marina of Kentucky Lake (Benton, KY). Ken was already on his boat at the dock. I was welcomed like it was yesterday!



True to Ken’s word, he had everything ready and all the fishing gear we needed, plus a completely outfitted crappie catching pontoon which was “new to him”. Truly a nice fishing platform for a couple of graying and seasoned anglers.

The fishing was great, but the catching was a bit slow. I think we were the only boat on the lake – that could have been a hint. Still, I learned so much. Live scope, side scan and traditional sonar screens entertained us with different views of the fish. I learned to identify deep brush piles, bait schools and fish which Ken said were likely crappie.

Ken is a great teacher in his southern-country way. His greatest attribute is his passion for doing what he loves. And he lives to fish, hunt and write about the outdoors. He has also created his own Rambling Angler Outdoors business. It’s an online crappie fishing store featuring jigs, crankbaits and other tackle. Look it up. It is definitely worth the shopping exploration ([www.ramblingangler.com](http://www.ramblingangler.com)).

We did catch a few fish, but mostly our day was enriched with crappie fishing techniques and tackle rigging lessons and shared tales of our past outdoor life experiences. It was during our conversations that Ken imparted his firm conviction that you need to live life passionately in all you do, and to fully immerse yourself deeply and completely into your endeavors.

After we docked his boat, we found ourselves in his den surrounded by Alaskan memorabilia and in front of his fly-fishing vices. My next lesson was to learn to tie Ken’s creation: the Hairy Cricket, a bluegill jig. I soon realized I was being trained and recruited to be a supplier of jigs to help Ken fill his online orders. I learned the materials and the mechanics but my finished Hairy Cricket jigs have yet to meet the high quality demanded by the Rambling Angler.

The days are getting shorter and cold weather will be arriving soon. I plan to spend the upcoming darkness perfecting my efforts to tie, produce and provide acceptable jigs for Ken. He is just as serious about his

(continued next page)





high quality standards as he is passionate about his trade.

At the end of my visit, Ken sold me three complete Rambling Angler crappie kits containing baits and jigs. One is for me and two will be future gifts for angling friends of mine. Ken is a passionate salesman!

As a thank-you for Ken and Tammi's hospitality at their Kentucky Lake home, I provided Ken with a fly-fishing trout trip on the Cumberland River at Helms Landing. Ken met me at the Riverside Retreat (270-343-3775) that overlooks the river. We enjoyed a blazing and warming campfire well into the evening that night. A little Monkey Shoulder Scotch helped keep the chill at bay as well.

The following day, we spent the morning fishing with a very good friend of mine named David DeBold (502-432-5188). David is an excellent fishing guide and knows the river well. This fishing

excursion is worthy of a story on its own, but that will have to wait for another issue.

One thing about our fishing trip that I will mention is the fact that Ken caught his personal-best rainbow trout that day. It easily surpassed 20 inches in length and it was beautifully colored.

The photo above shows HOW Past-President Ken McBroom enjoying our warm campfire. Ken and I shared plenty of campfire stories and some great camaraderie, too.

The photo at the right shows Ken McBroom smiling over a stunning rainbow trout that he caught from the Cumberland River, with guide David DeBold holding it.

We should all passionately share our hobbies and adventures with others. It is what quality memories are made from.

Living the dream and enjoying the great outdoors! Photos by Bob Sawtelle.



# 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 15.

## 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 Dave Hoffman:

HOW member Dave Hoffman is a frequent contributor to this page, and for good reason. He loves birds and he is an excellent photographer. He does a lot of his birding on various trips around the country, but sometimes he finds great birds right on his own property! Here is his report:

"I am enjoying our newly constructed deck which overlooks a 'natural area', and I am learning more about our avian neighbors," stated Hoffman. "I periodically collect five-minute recordings on the Merlin Bird ID and have been surprised at the high presence of **Indigo Buntings** (*Passerina cyanea*). According to Cornell Labs, Indigo Buntings are 'common and widespread', so why do I rarely see one, not to mention getting an opportunity to photograph one of these winged jewels?"



"I went back to the basics and found their preferred habitat is, 'rural farmland, brushy and weedy fields and pastures, woodland edges, open grasslands near bushes and trees, but usually sings in tall trees.' Tall trees border our housing addition, so I assumed they had to be nearby. I entered our 'natural area' on an old trail until I came to grassy opening that fit the vague descriptions of their habitat, and I began to hear their song. It was described as 'a high, sharp warble, with cheerful and sweet phrases which are always repeated'. My Merlin Bird ID confirmed the presence of indigo buntings, so I decided to just hang out and observe their behavior. Within a week I was rewarded with a couple of shots during a male's morning refrain."

"I was not aware that their short,

conical bill was bicolored, with silver-gray on the bottom and black on the very top. While the male is bright turquoise in the sunlight, they, like all other bluebirds have no blue pigment. The females are brown and are often mistaken for sparrows, although they also have a bicolored conical bill which fits their diet of mostly seeds and insects. Another simple reminder to do one's homework first!"



See the next page for more bird photos and information.



## Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

Bird Reports Continued...

### Report from Mike Lunsford:

HOW member Mike Lunsford is also a frequent contributor to this, page, just like Dave Hoffman. He didn't have to go far from home to see some great birds, either. Here is his report:



Lunsford enjoyed the temporary relief a cold front brought to Indiana in late August, but found the warblers he spotted on his walks to be even more welcomed. Besides seeing one of his favorite birds, the **Northern Parula** (*Setophaga Americana*), frolicking in the waters of his bird bath, Lunsford also saw and photographed both a **Cape May Warbler** (*Setophaga tigrina*) and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** (*Setophaga dominica*) at or near his Parke County home.

Lunsford photographed a beautiful female Cape May (photo at left) in a poplar tree as it undoubtedly hunted for insects in the foliage. "These birds spend most of their summers in northern spruce forests," Lunsford said, "but they spend their winters in the Caribbean, so I expect this one was looking to head south a little early. Most photographers prefer the more colorful male, but I was just as excited to get a good look at this normally elusive little bird."

Within a few days of seeing the Cape May, Lunsford

had an easier time spotting a mature Yellow-throated warbler (photo at right) as it landed on a feeder pole not far from his cabin. It seemed particularly interested in the grape jelly he had been feeding to visiting orioles. It's said that Yellow-throated warblers are attracted to sycamore tree groves, and true to form, there are several large sycamore trees near the feeder pole. "This is such a beautiful bird, and one reason I truly disliked the hot weather coming back to us in the last week of August was that the warblers seemed to leave as the high temperatures moved in."



**HOW members** are encouraged to send their interesting bird photos to newsletter

editor and bird enthusiast Tom Berg via email ([thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto: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 cool bird pictures.



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

**For immediate release:** August 29, 2024

## Outdoor Indiana Features Story on Wildlife Viewing

Outdoor Indiana magazine's September/October issue features a cover story on the hobby of wildlife viewing.

The issue also includes an article on the Knobstone Trail, the longest hiking trail in the state, and a story on identifying and collecting tree seeds.

Outdoor Indiana is available now at Indiana State Park Inns across the state for \$4. You can subscribe online or by phone for \$15 for one year or \$28 for two years. Subscribe at any time at [ShopINStateParks.com](https://ShopINStateParks.com) or by calling 317-233-3046. To read article excerpts, go to [OutdoorIndiana.org](https://OutdoorIndiana.org).

To view more DNR news releases, please see [dnr.IN.gov](https://dnr.IN.gov).

**Media contact:**

Marty Benson, DNR  
managing editor of Outdoor  
Indiana magazine,  
phone: 317-233-3853.





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

**For immediate release:** September 27, 2024

## MyPath Riverfront Trail Opens in Owen County With Next Level Trails Support

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Owen County Community Foundation opened the recently completed MyPath Riverfront Trail, which was funded with support by Next Level Trails (NLT).

The 0.88-mile asphalt multi-use trail was constructed by the foundation with help from a \$639,483 NLT grant. The award was announced by Gov. Eric J. Holcomb in April 2022 as part of the third round of NLT grant funding.

“Trails are important for both the wellbeing of Hoosiers and our communities,” said Dan Bortner, DNR director. “Next Level Trails has taken that philosophy literally to the next level, making connections with more than 100 new trail miles throughout the state. It’s exciting to see this new trail section open for all to enjoy in Owen County.”

The project improves 0.88 miles of the previously natural-surface trail along the White River, connecting Pottersville Road to River Road south of Spencer. It links users to a lowlands reforestation project and pollinator garden, and establishes a new trailhead on the river’s west fork featuring an 80-foot ADA-accessible bridge over Elliston Creek.

“The community is excited to enjoy the first multi-use trail in the county. We are happy for the partnerships that have built this new, beautiful trail along the White River,” said Janet Rummel, the foundation’s president and CEO.

As part of Gov. Holcomb’s Next Level Connections initiative, NLT is the largest infusion of trails funding in state history. The \$180 million program is administered by the DNR and facilitates critical trail connections within and between Hoosier communities.

Including the MyPath Riverfront Trail, 36 of the 89 NLT projects are complete, totaling more than 102 miles of trail built since the program’s inception. Several projects are under construction, with many more slated to break ground during the next year.

More information about the NLT can be found at [on.IN.gov/NextLevelTrails](https://on.IN.gov/NextLevelTrails).

**Media contact:** Holly Lawson, DNR Communications,  
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# Visit Northern Alabama's Spectacular Cathedral Caverns

Story and photos by Tom Berg

I enjoy exploring caves. The sense of mystery and adventure never gets old, and I think the unusual cave formations that take thousands of years to form are very interesting. Add the darkness, the bats and the eerie silence, and it's enough to give anyone a thrill. The year-round cool cave temperatures are a welcome side benefit on a hot summer day, too.

Over the years, I have visited many caves and caverns throughout the United States. The Cave of the Winds in Colorado was the first of many caves I explored back when I was a youngster, and evidently I have never outgrown them. The enormous cave system at Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky is great, and I also enjoyed visiting Big Wyandotte Cave in southern Indiana with its interesting formations and its impressive subterranean Monument Mountain. Those are just a few of my favorite caves.



1950's. The name was changed to Cathedral Caverns when the full extent of the subterranean formations were discovered. The awe-inspiring columns, stalactites and stalagmites looked like the inside of a breath-taking cathedral!

The first thing that visitors see when entering Cathedral Caverns is the gigantic entrance. It is truly enormous. The cave opening is 25 feet tall and an amazing 126 feet wide, and modern stairs and a smooth concrete walkway make it easy for visitors to get in and out of the cave. Much of it is wheelchair-accessible, too. There is plenty of light near the entrance from outside, but that changes quickly.

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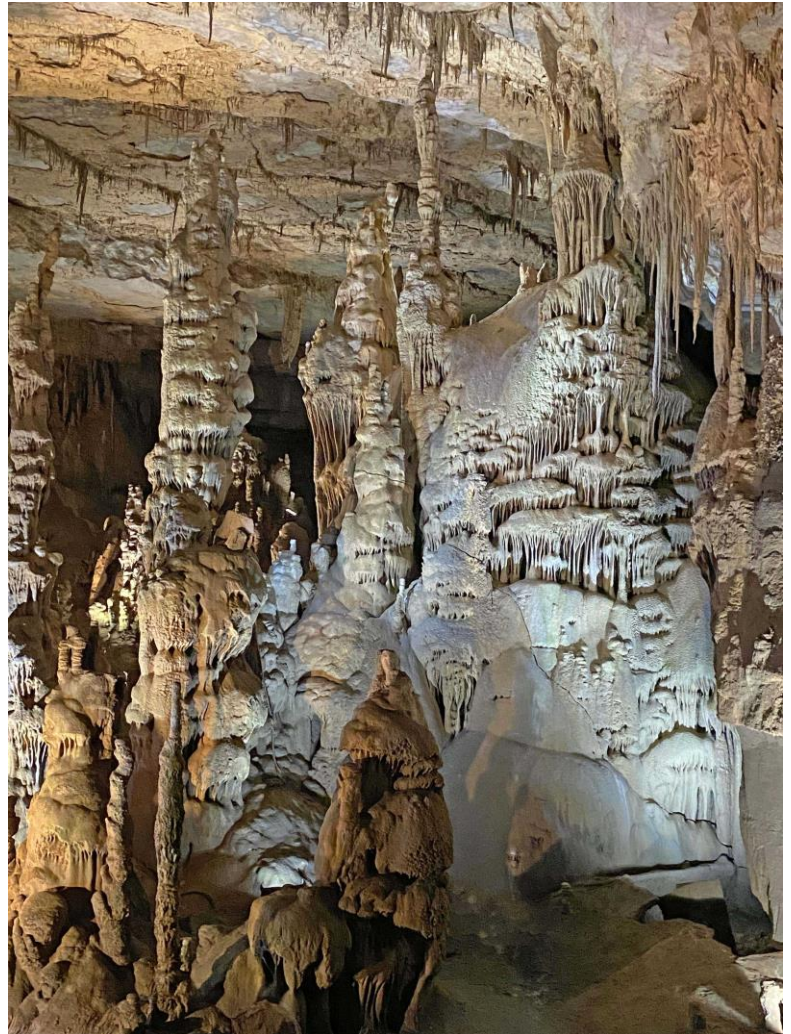




The cave would be very dark if it were not for the artificial lighting that was installed to illuminate the walkways and highlight the beautiful formations. One of the largest stalagmites in the world can be found here, measuring 45 feet tall and a massive 243 feet in circumference at its base. It is named “Goliath”, and the name fits!

There is also a large stalagmite forest near the end of the caverns that is absolutely spectacular. The path meanders through three levels of stalagmite formations that rise from the floor of the cave and reach nearly to the ceiling. Actually, some of them do reach the ceiling and those are called columns. There are also too many stalactites hanging down from the ceiling to count. One amazing stalagmite measures 27 feet tall and is only three inches wide. It is amazing that it was never broken off over the eons.

One area of the cave is known as Boulder Boulevard. It is a huge room with giant boulders strewn everywhere. The room itself is 550 feet long, 100 feet wide and an amazing 123 feet tall. The sheer size of



the room is almost enough to take your breath away. The size of the boulders and huge broken rocks is remarkable, too.

The flowstone formations inside the cave are just incredible. Not far from the entrance is a huge formation called Stalagmite Mountain. This flowstone feature is a 500,000 cubic foot column of solid calcite which is wonderful to see. Of course, flowstone formations can be seen in many areas of the cave, but farther down the path there is a large “frozen waterfall”, where water trickles over a massive section of flowstone (32 feet tall and 135 feet long) to the rocks below. There is even a “Flowstone Wall”

beyond that where different shapes can be seen in the shadowy light.

The sheer number and beauty of the formations inside Cathedral Caverns made a lasting impression on me. If I find myself in northern Alabama again in the future, I would visit Cathedral Caverns again without hesitation. It was an experience I will never forget. If you like caves and have never seen this one, you need to add it to your bucket list!

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For more information on Cathedral Caverns State Park, please visit [www.alapark.com/parks/cathedral-caverns-state-park](http://www.alapark.com/parks/cathedral-caverns-state-park). The website provides plenty of information about cave tours (including tour times and prices) and other activities in the park. Cathedral Caverns is also within easy driving distance of Lake Guntersville State Park, the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Monte Sano State Park and several other state parks.



While you are in northern Alabama, check out some of the other great things to do in the area, too. The Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association maintains a great website which has ideas for all sorts of cool places to visit and fun things to do ([www.northalabama.org](http://www.northalabama.org)).

Besides caves, the nearby state parks have great hiking trails, fishing lakes, beautiful waterfalls and more. And when you get hungry, don't forget about the North Alabama Barbecue Trail. Alabama BBQ is hard to beat! We had some BBQ ribs that were out of this world.

So head to northern Alabama and check out Cathedral Caverns for yourself. You will be glad you made the trip!



# Cathedral Caverns State Park



## Forest Service News Release

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### Butternut Tree Seeds Collected for Conservation and Cultural Connection

**Bedford, IN – (October 22, 2024)** Fourteen staff from the Hoosier National Forest assisted in the collection of approximately 1,017 pounds of butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) seeds from a pure butternut seed orchard in early October 2024 in Huntingburg, Indiana.

“The seeds produced by butternut trees in their natural environment are prized by wildlife and people alike due to their quality taste and high fat content,” said District Ranger for the forest, Chris Thornton. “Unfortunately, butternuts have been decimated by the invasive butternut canker fungus. We’re working with partners to help them make a comeback by monitoring this seed orchard and collecting the seeds annually so they can be used for conservation and research.”

The collected seeds will go to the Purdue University Hardwood Tree Improvement and Regeneration Center (HTIRC), a partnership between Purdue University and the USDA Forest Service. Caleb Kell, operational tree breeder with the HTIRC, assisted with the collection efforts and will take the nuts through the next steps of the process. “There are currently two main paths for conservation of the butternut,” he said. “Planting pure butternuts across the landscape for conservation purposes, and creating hybrids with Japanese walnut, *Juglans ailantifolia*, to find a strain resistant to the fungal canker.”

The approximately 12,400 nuts collected at the Huntingburg orchard will be used for a variety of conservation purposes. Some will be grown in nurseries for distribution to the public to get these trees back on the landscape. Members of the public can check with Hensler’s Nursery in Hamlet, Indiana, Tree Pro in West Lafayette, Indiana and the Buckeye State Tree Nursery in Zanesville, Ohio next spring for availability. Some of the nuts will be planted at the HTIRC and made available for research in genetics and disease pathology to further conserve the species.

The Forest Service has planted butternuts on Hoosier National Forest previously and plans to continue to add more.

Keith Woeste, the Forest Service national program lead for genetics and biodiversity conservation research & development, attended the seed collection event. He spent many years researching the conservation genetics of butternuts and now has an interest in fostering a cultural connection between butternuts and the Native American tribes that historically utilized them as a food and wood resource. With the goal of reestablishing their cultural connection to this native food source, he plans to provide processed nuts for the first time this year to the Delaware Tribe of Indians, now located in Oklahoma.

The butternut seed orchard on the grounds of OFS Brands in Huntingburg is now in its twelfth growing season and according to Travis Swaim, forest silviculturist, there is no sign of butternut canker. The orchard is expected to continue producing seed to contribute to the conservation of the imperiled butternut for many years to come.

# **Book Review:** **New Children's Book by Noel Vick** ***All Fish Are Awesome***

Review by Tom Berg

I love fishing. I love fish, too. Actually, I love everything about fish and fishing! I think books about fishing are especially great, because (of course) they talk about fishing! OK, enough craziness. But when I heard that Noel Vick had

written a children's book about fishing, I knew I needed to check it out. Most HOW members are likely familiar with Vick, as he is the President of the PR firm Traditions Media and sends out well-crafted press releases for his clients in the outdoors industry – many of which are (or were) HOW Supporting Members.

The title of the book is *All Fish are Awesome*. I couldn't agree more. All fish *are* awesome – at least to me. Vick geared this hardcover book to children, especially to children ages 4-10 years old. That's the perfect age to ignite the spark of interest in fish and fishing to kids.

*All Fish are Awesome* is an enjoyable collection of many different fish species from both freshwater and saltwater, complete with vibrant color illustrations for each fish and a short fact or interesting anecdote to help kids identify and remember them. Some of the fish are

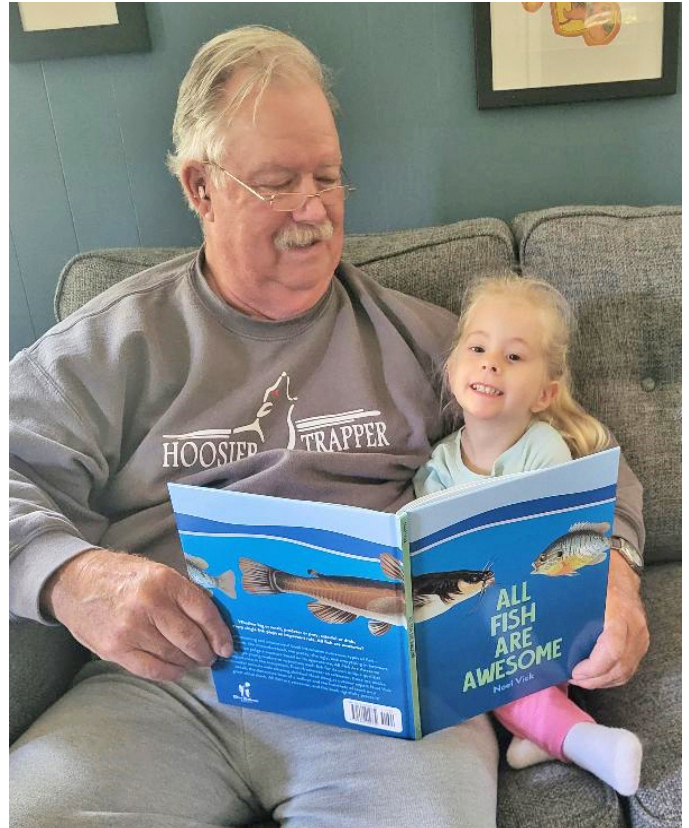


popular and well-known species like rainbow trout, for example, while others are unusual like the sturgeon. One page even features the seahorse, which many people probably don't even know is a fish!

The last thought on each page is **All Fish are Awesome!** Repetition definitely helps kids remember!

At the end of the book, Vick leaves the reader with a very important thought: "Whether big or small, predator or prey, colorful or drab, every single fish plays an important role." So very true! It's a wonderful message to plant in the minds of our youngsters who are just beginning to appreciate our finned friends!

**Photo at Right:** HOW member Mike Schoonveld reads *All Fish Are Awesome* to his granddaughter Anna.





# HOW Member News

## Hoffman and Friends Catch Wisconsin Salmon, Steelhead and Smallies?

HOW Member Dave Hoffman and friends returned to the North Country with vivid memories of last year's Lake Michigan trout and salmon bonanza. "This summer we broadened our fishing adventures with a sample of another North Country favorite, the feisty smallmouth bass," said Dave.

"We decided that a day of fishing for bronzebacks might help get the kinks out of our aging bodies before we battled the big boys," said Dave. "Local smallmouth expert Jimmy Doering, owner of Cast N Catch Charters in Sturgeon Bay, introduced us to the Sister Islands which flank the harbor opening to



**Left to Right:** Native Hoosiers, Steve Daniel (currently residing in Englewood, FL), and Tim Hayes from Brazil, IN compare spunky Door County smallmouth bass taken on light tackle. Photo by Dave Hoffman.

the quaint Village of Sister Bay. Jimmy schooled us on the area's smallie hotspots and shared his knowledge on baits, presentations, patterns and local attractions. During the outing we caught and released lots of scrappy smallmouth bass."

The guys were greeted at the dock the following morning at 3:30am by their favorite guide, Capt. Alex Tamble who owns Sturgeon Bay Outdoors charter boats. "Minutes later we exited the shipping canal and roared off into the darkness on Lake Michigan," said Dave. "Capt. Alex and first mate Mason put us on fish right away, and as usual we had a couple of salmon in the box before the sun broke the horizon. The strikes can be sporadic after sunrise, but the fishing for us remained fantastic. It wasn't long before we had our limit."

"When we passed back through the canal into Sturgeon Bay, we had nearly 60 pounds of fillets, mostly king salmon," said Dave. "After vacuum-packing our fish and stowing them in the chest freezer at the duplex which Captain Alex rents, we grabbed our cameras and

explored scenic Door County all afternoon."

"Called the 'Cape Cod of the Midwest', Door County is home to five state, and twenty county parks, plus eleven historic lighthouses. There are over three hundred miles of scenic coastline with beaches,

(continued on next page)



limestone bluffs and interesting rock formations to explore. A popular tourist destination in the fall, Door County's climate is favorable to tourists as well as numerous apple and cherry orchards, wineries, art galleries, ice cream shops and the legendary Wisconsin supper clubs."

Early the next morning Captain Alex gave us the weather report. "There aren't any whitecaps," he said, "but there are large swells and there's only one other boat going out this morning besides us."

"We didn't let that stop us," said Dave. "We were very comfortable knowing that his boat, the Kali Morgan, is over 42' long with a 16' beam. Capt. Alex has been fishing these waters for over 25 years and he predicted that the fish would be going crazy due to an influx of colder water with the overnight wind. He was right!"

"There were periods of pure pandemonium and acrobatics as rods were passed over and under lines, reels sang and fish flopped on the rocking deck. Again, we were blown away that the crew was able to prevent a major cluster and they never missed netting a single fish during any of our trips to date."

"We were all smiles as we passed back through the shipping canal into calm water for a photo with our limits at 7:30am," said Dave.

"We'll be visiting Door County again next year!"



**Above (Left to Right):** Steve Daniel, Tim Hayes and Dave Hoffman hold some awesome Lake Michigan salmon. Returning to the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal early in the morning with their limit is a testament to the quality of this fishery. Photo courtesy of Dave Hoffman.



# Berg Brothers Take Epic Road Trip In Search of Unusual Fish Species

Story and photos by Tom Berg

My brother Mike and I are certified fishaholics. We never seem to get enough fishing in, even when we fish from sunup to sundown with hardly a break. We recently planned an extended multi-state road trip in search of fish species we had never caught before on hook and line. This trip would start in northern Indiana and take us to southern Missouri, northern Alabama, central Florida, and finally all the way down to the Florida Keys. Fishing was the main focus, of course, and even though we were gone for a total of 10 days, both of us wished we could have spent a few more days fishing!

The trip started on a Friday morning in early September. We drove to Poplar Bluff, MO and met up with our friend Tyler Goodale just after sundown. Goodale is a local multi-species fishing expert and guide (573-714-8040), and he planned to take us on an after-dark fishing adventure on southern Missouri's Black River. We would be searching for a variety of unusual darter species, sculpins, madtoms and whatever other fish species we might find during the night.

Luckily, conditions were perfect since the river was very low and clear. The low water made wading after dark safe and easy, and since we had flashlights and headlamps, visibility was not a problem. Avoiding poison ivy vines in the dark as we walked from the road and through the weeds to the river (and back) was interesting, but we were lucky and no one got into the itchy poison ivy.



A cool-looking fantail darter caught after dark in the Black River. Many darter species bite better at night.

Wading in the river in the dark, and searching the bottom for small fish by flashlight is not for everyone. But we had an absolute ball! The Black River is known for its great diversity of fish species, and we were not disappointed. Mike's number one target species was the crystal darter, a fairly large darter which gets up to about six inches long. Crystal darters are somewhat rare in Missouri, and the Black River is one of the very few places where they can be found.

As we waded the river we found several lone crystal darters hugging the sandy bottom in different spots, but we could not get them to take a bait. We were using tiny microhooks and miniscule pieces of redworm for bait, but none of them were interested. We did find several other species of darters that were more than happy to gobble our baits, though, including saddleback darters, speckled darters, rainbow darters and fantail darters. We also found a few minnow and shiner species that were willing to bite.



This is an adult Black River Madtom. They don't get much bigger than this and the Black River of Missouri is one of the few places they are found.

One of the highlights for both Mike and I occurred after midnight when the small madtom catfish came out to play. Madtoms are very small catfish species that only get a few inches long. The one we were looking for was the secretive Black River Madtom, and one of the few places they are known to exist is in the Black and St. Francis River drainages in Missouri. Suddenly these tiny catfish seemed to be everywhere, scurrying over the bottom and over the rocks and

(continued on the next page)

pebbles as they searched for food. If we could just get a bait in front of these fast little fish they would grab it. So we caught a few of them and took several photos!

As we waded farther upstream in the dark the river got shallower and narrower. Little pools were here and there and that's where we started finding more fish. Suddenly Tyler pointed out a Pirate Perch to me, just hovering there beside a large rock. I dropped my worm in front of him and he grabbed it. A very cool-looking fish that most people have never heard of and certainly never seen. In the next pool there was a banded sculpin – another fish I had never caught before. I dropped a worm in front of him and quickly caught and released him, too.



**Above:** The unusual Pirate Perch, another secretive fish species that bites better at night.  
**Below Right:** A colorful Rainbow Shiner with red fins and red eyes, caught in Alabama.

At 3:00am we decided that we'd had enough. We were tired, especially after driving several hours to get here from Indiana, and we needed to get some sleep so we could get back to fishing again after the sun came up!

Late the next morning we met Tyler again and went to the St. Francis River to try for a few other species. Mike and I each caught a Shadow Bass there, which look very similar to the rockbass we have up in Indiana. We tried for Mooneye (which looks like a herring) which are typically 10-12 inches long, but none were around. We tried for a few other darter species here but they were so small we couldn't seem to hook them, even with our tiny microhooks. They were very spooky, too. We did catch a few other species of shiners and even a few small Bantam Sunfish, though.

Next on our agenda was to drive to a spot I found in northern Alabama last year to fish for Coosa Bass, Rock Darters and some other shiners. Maybe even an Alabama hogsucker. It was more than a six hour drive

from Poplar Bluff, and we still needed to drive another four hours from Alabama to the hotel we had reserved in Georgia before calling it a day. So I had only reserved one hour in the afternoon to fish in Alabama.

As my wife knows very well, it is hard for me to stop somewhere and only fish for an hour! Luckily for me she was not on this trip or she would have killed me for sure. OK, maybe just maimed or seriously injured me. We fished my "secret" spot in Alabama and caught plenty of fish, including Coosa bass, rainbow shiners, striped shiners, green sunfish, creek chubs and southern studfish. No darters, unfortunately. After an hour and a half we tore ourselves away from the water and hopped back in the car so we could drive the four hours (or more) to our hotel for that night.



There is a lot more to this story as we were still on our way to Florida to fish in both freshwater and saltwater, but the rest of the tale will have to wait for the next issue. Until then, tight lines!



## HOW Members Proudly Announce New Grandchildren

Longtime HOW members John Martino and Mike Schoonveld recently announced the birth of their newest grandchildren. One is a girl and the other is a boy. John and Peggy Martino welcomed granddaughter Stevie Lynne Martino into their family in September. Mike and Peggy Schoonveld greeted new grandson Andrew Erdman back in August. Congratulations to all the proud parents and grandparents of these beautiful children!



**Above Left:** Grandparents Mike and Peggy Schoonveld, and parents Abby and Jeff Erdman holding children Anna and Andrew Erdman. **Above Right:** Grandparents John and Peggy Martino hold new granddaughter Stevie Lynne Martino. Everyone looks very happy and proud, and rightfully so!

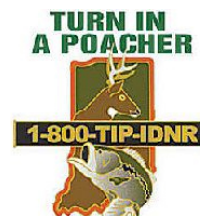
## HOW TO WRITE GOOD

(A reminder sent in by long-time HOW member and senior writer Jack Spaulding)

1. Avoid Alliteration. Always.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. Avoid clichés like the plague. They're old hat.
4. Comparisons are as bad as clichés.
5. Be more or less specific.
6. Writers should never generalize.
- Seven: Be consistent!
8. Don't be redundant; don't use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
9. Who needs rhetorical questions?
10. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.



## 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](mailto: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](http://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 Costa Del Mar

### The Adult Male Scarlet Tanager is Unforgettable



Close-up



Original



The “What is it?” photo from the previous issue was a little easier than last time, since it was correctly identified by a total of seven (7) HOW members. Phil Cox, Mike Lunsford, Mike Schoonveld, Troy McCormick, Bill Keaton, Marion Mason and Nate Mullendore were all able to identify it. When we drew a

name at random for the assortment of **Falcon Guide Books**, Marion Mason was the lucky winner. Congrats, Marion! We will send the prize to you in the mail.

As can be seen in the photo above, the mystery creature for this issue was a beautiful male Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*). Male scarlet tanagers are a brilliant red color with black wings and a black tail, while females are an olive-yellow color with slightly darker olive wings and tails. Juveniles look similar to the females.

Scarlet Tanagers concentrate on eating insects during the spring and summer, although they often supplement their protein diet with various fruits. Favorite insects include ants, beetles, moths, bees, wasps, leafhoppers, flies and many others. They also eat a large amount of fruit during their fall migration and while on their wintering grounds. Mulberries, raspberries, blackberries, huckleberries and other small fruits attract Scarlet Tanagers as they ripen.

For this issue, our friends at **Costa Del Mar** have donated a very nice prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be a stylish pair of new Costa Tailfin sunglasses. See below for more info.



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

Tom Berg has posed another Nature Photo mystery. The photo shown below right is part of a close-up of a creature that can be found throughout most of the state of Indiana, but you are unlikely to 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 moth, for example, go ahead and guess “Imperial Moth” (of course, it’s not a moth). If you think you know the answer, send an email to [thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net). If you’re right, you’ll be entered in this issue’s prize drawing!



As mentioned, **Costa Del Mar** ([www.costadelmar.com](http://www.costadelmar.com)) has donated a very nice pair of Tailfin sunglasses (with green mirror lenses) for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. These sunglasses retail for \$186, so put your thinking cap on! If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw a winner at random from the pool of correct entries. All nature 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.

### HOW Members Can Attend the 2025 ATA Show for Free

**New Ulm, MN** – The Archery Trade Association (ATA) has invited HOW members to attend the upcoming 2025 ATA Show for free as media members. Here is the press release:



**You're invited! Attend the 2025 ATA Show at no cost!**

The 2025 ATA Show, taking place January 8-10 in Indianapolis, will welcome over 700 retailer companies, 500 archery brands and hundreds of new products under one roof. This premier event offers unmatched opportunities for outdoor journalists to gain exclusive access to the archery and bowhunting industry's latest innovations and trends. This is an event you can't afford to miss!

As a member of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers, you are invited to attend all three days of the 2025 ATA Show at no cost. For more information on press-specific guidelines and to register, click [here](#).

Do you have questions or need assistance with registration? Contact Sarah Haala, ATA's trade show and membership manager, at (507) 233-8131 or via email at: [sarahhaala@archerytrade.org](mailto:sarahhaala@archerytrade.org).

**Press Registration Link (also hyperlinked above):** <https://archerytrade.org/trade-show/press/>

#### Media Contact:

**Tristan Asbury**

Director, Marketing and Communications  
Archery Trade Association

Direct: 507.233.8136

Cell: 573.823.8815

Email: [tristanasbury@archerytrade.org](mailto:tristanasbury@archerytrade.org)

PO Box 70, New Ulm, MN 56073-0070





## HOW Supporting Member News

### Henry Debuts First-Ever Rimfire Revolver and Single Shot .410 Shotgun for Turkey Hunters

**Rice Lake, WI** – Sept. 19, 2024. Henry Repeating Arms is introducing its first-ever rimfire revolver named after the company's flagship [Golden Boy rifle](#) and a new .410 shotgun for turkey hunters seeking a reliable platform to maximize the benefits of Tungsten Super Shot (TSS).



Introduced in 1999, the Henry Golden Boy remains one of the world's most popular lever-action .22 rifles on the market today. Now, a sidearm companion is available with the [Henry Golden Boy Revolver](#). Borrowing from the same bill of materials as its rifle counterpart, this 10-shot wheel gun features a deeply blued steel medium-size frame, genuine American walnut grip panels, and a highly polished brass backstrap and trigger guard. The traditional double-action revolver has squared Gunfighter-style grips for maximum control (model H016GD) or a more compact, rounded Bird'shead-style grip for better concealment (model H016BD). The 10-round cylinder features an innovative quick takedown button inside the trigger guard, making post-range cleaning and maintenance exceptionally easy. Both models share a 4" round blued steel barrel and a familiar sight system composed of a fixed notch cut directly into the rear of the frame and three different screw-in blade sights to adjust for elevation. The MSRP for both Henry Golden Boy Revolver versions is \$928.00. For more information, visit [henryusa.com/handguns/golden-boy-revolver](https://henryusa.com/handguns/golden-boy-revolver).

The advent of TSS loads for .410-bore shotguns changed the game for turkey hunters, providing patterns and distances never seen from small-bore shotguns. The new [Henry Single Shot Turkey Camo .410 Shotgun](#) (model H015T-410) is purpose-built to maximize its effectiveness. Unique to the design of this shotgun are the fully adjustable front and rear fiber optics sights, the removable invector-style TSS choke, and a full helping of Mossy Oak® Original Bottomland® camo from buttstock to muzzle. The break-action actuates with an ambidextrous bi-directional locking lever for loading and ejecting, and the 26" camo-dipped barrel is drilled and tapped to accept an optics base. The MSRP for the Henry Single Shot Turkey Camo .410 Shotgun is \$780.00. For more information, visit [henryusa.com/shotguns/single-shot-turkey-camo-shotgun](https://henryusa.com/shotguns/single-shot-turkey-camo-shotgun).

"It's high time our flagship rifle had a bonafide revolver companion, and I'm proud to stamp the Henry name on what the team put together," says Anthony Imperato, Founder and CEO of Henry Repeating Arms. "Providing our customers with the most smiles per dollar is paramount to everything we do, and these new products deliver in spades, whether on the range or in the field." These new Henry Golden Boy Revolvers and Single Shot Turkey Camo .410 Shotgun are shipping now and available at Henry dealers nationwide.



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

## HOW Supporting Member News

### IDDC Campaigns Win Platinum and Gold MarCom Awards

Indianapolis, IN (Oct. 23, 2024 – [MarCom Awards](#) announced [Indiana Destination Development Corporation \(IDDC\)](#) as a 2024 winner in four categories earning two Platinum MarCom Awards and two Gold MarCom Awards in the international creative competition for marketing and communication professionals.

IDDC was awarded Platinum MarCom Awards for the [Indiana State Travel Guide](#) and ["I'm IN!" Indiana Tourism Travel Campaign](#). Additionally, IDDC was awarded Gold MarCom Awards for the [Indiana State Travel Guide Cover](#) and [Top Five IN Indiana Video Series](#). IDDC also earned honorable mentions for the IDDC - Total Eclipse IN INDIANA T-Shirts and Total Eclipse IN Indiana 2024 Campaign.



“We are incredibly proud of the work being done at IDDC and are honored to receive this recognition,” said Elaine Bedel, IDDC Secretary and CEO. “These awards are a testament to the collaborative spirit that drives our efforts. We remain committed to amplifying Indiana’s story and these accolades inspire us to continue innovating and marketing creatively.”

The Indiana State Travel Guide shares with readers travel opportunities from the vibrant shores of the Ohio River to the natural landscape of the Indiana Dunes National Park.

“These award-winning marketing campaigns and materials are continuing to elevate Indiana’s presence on a national and global stage,” said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Indiana’s Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. “This recognition reflects our commitment to making Indiana a place people are eager to visit, but it also underscores the vital role that tourism plays in boosting our economy and nurturing our pride of place.”

IDDC’s “I’m IN!” Indiana tourism Travel Campaign is comprised of three commercials filmed on location at more than 30 destinations with the goal of creating awareness and highlighting the beautiful and exciting places visitors can experience IN Indiana. Centered around the phrase “I’m IN!” as a nod to the state abbreviation, the campaign includes locations from each region of the state.



AMCP administers and judges several international competitions for marketing and communication professionals involved in the concept, writing and design of marketing and communication programs and print, visual and audio materials. Entries come from corporate marketing and communication departments, advertising agencies, PR firms, design shops, production companies and freelancers.

The 2024 international awards competition recognizes outstanding achievements in video and digital production skills. There were over 6,500 entries from throughout the United States, Canada and 48 other countries. To learn more about the 2024 MarCom Awards and see the full list of winners, [click here](#).

**Media Contacts:** For more information, please contact:

Amy Howell, VP of Tourism, Marketing and Communications

Email: [AmHowell@visitindiana.com](mailto:AmHowell@visitindiana.com) or cell: 317.741.1320.

Justus O'Neil, Public Relations and Social Media Officer

Email: [JOneil@visitindiana.com](mailto:JOneil@visitindiana.com) or cell: 463.245.8562.





# HOW's Supporting Member Websites

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

Nesco Vacuum Sealers - [www.nesco.com](http://www.nesco.com)  
Norsemen Outdoors - [www.norsemenoutdoors.com](http://www.norsemenoutdoors.com)  
Nosler - [www.nosler.com](http://www.nosler.com)  
Nothead Tackle - [www.notheadtackle.com](http://www.notheadtackle.com)  
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - [www.mossberg.com](http://www.mossberg.com)  
Old Salt Angling - [www.oldsaltangling.com](http://www.oldsaltangling.com)  
Otis Technology - [www.otistec.com](http://www.otistec.com)  
Outdoor Edge - [www.outdooredge.com](http://www.outdooredge.com)  
Pheasants Forever - [www.pheasantsforever.org](http://www.pheasantsforever.org)  
Pro-Cure Bait Scents - [www.pro-cure.com](http://www.pro-cure.com)  
Rapala VMC - [www.rapala.com](http://www.rapala.com)  
Renfro Productions - [www.renfroproductions.com](http://www.renfroproductions.com)  
Seaguar Fishing Lines - [www.seaguar.com](http://www.seaguar.com)  
Shipshewana/LaGrange County CVB - [www.visitshipshewana.org](http://www.visitshipshewana.org)  
Shooter's Choice - [www.shooters-choice.com](http://www.shooters-choice.com)  
SKRE Gear - [www.skregear.com](http://www.skregear.com)  
Smith's Products - [www.smithsproducts.com](http://www.smithsproducts.com)  
Speedhook Specialists - [www.speedhook.com](http://www.speedhook.com)  
Sporting Classics - [www.sportingclassics.com](http://www.sportingclassics.com)  
Spypoint Trail Cameras - [www.spypoint.com](http://www.spypoint.com)  
St. Croix Rods - [www.stcroixrods.com](http://www.stcroixrods.com)  
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - [www.ruger.com](http://www.ruger.com)  
Swab-Its - [www.swab-its.com](http://www.swab-its.com)  
Sweet Owen CVB - [www.sweetowencvb.org](http://www.sweetowencvb.org)  
Tales End Tackle - [www.talesendtackle.com](http://www.talesendtackle.com)  
Target Communications Outdoor Books - [www.targetcommbooks.com](http://www.targetcommbooks.com)  
Toyota Motor Sales - [www.toyotanewsroom.com](http://www.toyotanewsroom.com)  
Traditions Media - [www.traditionsmedia.com](http://www.traditionsmedia.com)  
Traveler's Guide to Firearms Laws of 50 States - [www.bookvalueusa.com](http://www.bookvalueusa.com)  
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - [www.ttiblakemore.com](http://www.ttiblakemore.com)  
Van Vuuren African Safaris - [www.vvasafaris.com](http://www.vvasafaris.com)  
Vexilar, Inc. - [www.vexilar.com](http://www.vexilar.com)  
Vortex Optics - [www.vortexoptics.com](http://www.vortexoptics.com)  
Whitetails Unlimited - [www.whitetailsunlimited.com](http://www.whitetailsunlimited.com)  
WildTech - [www.wildtechgear.com](http://www.wildtechgear.com)  
Winchester Ammunition - [www.winchester.com](http://www.winchester.com)  
W.R. Case - [www.wrcase.com](http://www.wrcase.com)  
Yakima Bait Company - [www.yakimabait.com](http://www.yakimabait.com)  
Z-Man Fishing - [www.zmanfishing.com](http://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

**2025 ATA Show:**

([www.archerytrade.org](http://www.archerytrade.org))

Indianapolis, IN

January 8-10, 2025

**SHOT Show 2025:**

(<http://shotshow.org>)

Las Vegas, NV

January 21-24, 2025

**Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show:**

([www.IndySportShow.com](http://www.IndySportShow.com))

Indianapolis, IN

February 14-16 & 19-23, 2025

**Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo:**

([www.IndySportShow.com](http://www.IndySportShow.com))

Indianapolis, IN

February 21-23, 2025

**HOW 2025 Annual Conference:**

([www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org](http://www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org))

Clifty Inn, Clifty Falls State Park

Madison, IN

April 4-6, 2025

(Annual meeting on April 5)

**POMA 2025 Conference:**

([www.professionalooutdoormedia.org](http://www.professionalooutdoormedia.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](mailto:director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org) for possible inclusion in future issues of *The Blade*.