

The Blade

July - August 2025

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Waits for its Next Meal", 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 colorful scissor-tailed flycatcher sits on a barbed wire fence overlooking a grassy field in southeast Kansas. The male flycatchers have extremely long tail feathers, sometimes as long as nine inches in length. They are most common in the southern Great Plains. Photo by Tom Berg.

President's Message

by Marilyn Culler

Summer Fish Stories



July has been a month of hot weather, fish stories and a cold beverage or two.

Every fishing trip has a story. At the edge of a lake recently, I fumbled and dropped my fish basket into the water. When I couldn't find it, everything else started to go wrong. I knew I had to shift my attitude, and soon afterwards the fishing improved.

On my last cast of the evening, I caught a decent bass. When everything was out of the water and our kayaks packed up, I asked my friend Joanna if she'd walk to the edge of the lake with me and see if she could spot my basket. Sure enough, she spotted it and before I knew it, she was in the water. She claims she swam half a mile to get that basket!

You don't have to be fishing for a fishing story to unfold. A chance happening in July took me on a different fishing adventure. All because of Yuengling, my hometown beer.

There it was. A huge bass, flipping out of the water under the *Field & Stream* masthead on a bottom shelf at Barnes & Noble. I hadn't thought of that magazine since childhood. I bent down, retrieved the issue and was hooked. I opened the nostalgic front cover of the thick tome, and an ad for Yuengling, my hometown beer, splashed across two pages.

First it was Yuengling. Then a fishing story – and all that went wrong! – by Eric Church, one of my favorite country music artists. I had a few smallmouth bass fishing trips planned, and there was a smallmouth article in the magazine. One of my students is from Mongolia, so I was thrilled to read about fly fishing for taimen in Mongolia. Then articles on tarpon, bluegill and bass. And reading about ice fishing on a hot July afternoon was cool and refreshing. Almost every page of the issue had a personal connection for me.

When I couldn't get over my delight at the Yuengling partnership, I reached out to *Field & Stream* via email. The magazine began publication in 1871. The Yuengling family has owned and operated D.G. Yuengling & Son, America's oldest brewery, since 1829. Dick Yuengling's four daughters now run the operation. "We have a shared responsibility and appreciation for each other," said Doug McNamee, president of *Field & Stream*.

"We reached out to Yuengling," McNamee said. "Their footprint was in alignment with our most concentrated audience. It came together in a way we're really proud of. The Yuengling family has been great to work with, too. We're super excited about the journey, and look forward to the next 125 years," McNamee said. He refers to both *Field & Stream* and Yuengling as "stewards maintaining a legacy."

So it is with all of us who communicate about the outdoors. We're part of a legacy, with adventures ahead, stories to share and a responsibility to future generations of outdoor enthusiasts.

We all have stories to tell. I have a legacy of fishing stories and the history of my hometown beer and adventures in Indiana to share with my grandchildren. Right now, we wade creeks for bass and fish in a pond for little bluegills. One day, maybe we'll share a Yuengling at the end of a good day of fishing.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents and Memorial Section

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

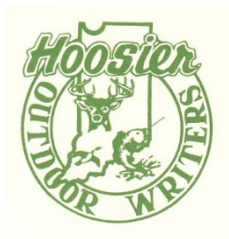
No new members for this issue.
See Member News Section
starting on page 17.

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

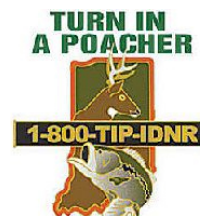
Jack Alkire – HOW President 1979
Bill Beeman – Executive Director Emeritus
 Don Bickel
 Ed Blann
 Charlie Brown
 Gary Carden
Jim “Moose” Carden – HOW President 1982-83
 George Carey
 John Case
Bill Church – HOW President 1972
 Gene Clifford
 Jack “Big Jake” Cooper
 Mark Cottingham
Larry Crecelius – HOW President 2003
 Jerry Criss
 Gary “Dox” Duxtater
 Dick Forbes
Tom Glancy – HOW President 1977
 Dale Griffith
 Phil Hawkins
 Fred Heckman
Marty Jaranowski – HOW President 1996
Phil Junker – HOW President 1975+2002
 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
Bob Sawtelle	2024



Hoosier Outdoor Writers Turn in a Poacher/Polluter Writing Contest Official 2025 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, 2025** and **December 31, 2025**. 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, 2026.

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>



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 enjoys combining travel, photography and bird watching. Last January when the weather was miserable here in Hoosierland, Dave and his wife Judy traveled down to Florida's Everglades National Park. "We were in search of sunshine and warm temperatures, but found neither one. However, we did have an opportunity to photograph one of Florida's most colorful native birds, the **Purple Gallinule** (*Porphyrio martinicus*). It's easy to recognize the vibrant blue, green and purple plumage, bright yellow-tipped bill and elongated legs and feet, which are also bright yellow," said Dave.



They are part of the diverse Rallidae family, which includes the rails, coots, gallinules and soras. Typically, these birds are slender, secretive and are usually found in wetland habitats.

"Purple gallinules can easily creep across the tops of lily pads, but I also witnessed one climbing a vertical plant stem," Dave continued. "I would never have guessed they possess the dexterity to grasp a limb or small tree and climb higher with those lengthy toes."

Gallinules prefer freshwater swamps, marshes and ponds, especially those with lily pads and other floating vegetation. They are omnivores, consuming tubers, seeds, flowers and leaves, and they will also eat insects, snails, frogs, dragonflies, beetles, grasshoppers as well as eggs and the nestlings of some birds.

Conversely, the brilliantly colored purple gallinules are preyed upon by a variety of raptors, reptiles and mammals, including hawks, owls, alligators, snapping turtles, foxes and bobcats. Habitat destruction and degraded water quality are associated with declining populations in some areas.

"Judy and I found the Anhinga Trail to be great place to see the purple gallinules during January," said Dave. "The paved trail makes a three-quarter mile loop and is located at the end of Royal Palm Road. Naturally, you want to get there ahead of the crowd to increase your chances of seeing these colorful creatures."



See the next page for more bird photos and information.



Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

Bird Reports Continued...

Report from Bill Keaton:

HOW legal advisor Bill Keaton recently submitted this birding report:

“My wife Rita and I live fairly close to Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area,” said Bill. “It is located south of Linton, Indiana in Greene County. We go to church in Linton, so at certain times of the year after church, we take a drive through Goose Pond to see what birds might be there.”

“In the spring, and again in late fall to early winter, we are always rewarded with hundreds – if not thousands – of **Sandhill Cranes** (*Grus canadensis*). This year was no different. See the photo below.



Occasionally we are rewarded with one or two **Whooping Cranes** (*Grus americana*) as well. Such was the case earlier this year in February.

“To the right is a photo I took of a single whooping crane standing with several sandhill cranes,” he continued. “The whooping crane is the white bird standing at the upper left. This field was just one of many agricultural fields that were loaded with cranes.”

“Of course, it is not possible to get very close without spooking all of the birds. The attached photos were taken with my cell phone at quite a distance, so the quality could be better.”



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 hear your birding stories and see your exciting bird pictures.

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

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

For immediate release: July 7, 2025

DNR Stocks 12 Indiana Lakes with Striped Bass and Hybrid Striped Bass

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) East Fork State Fish Hatchery recently completed its annual stocking of striped and hybrid striped bass. More than 21,000 striped bass fingerlings and 147,000 hybrid striped bass fingerlings were added to 12 lakes around the state. The fingerlings averaged 1.5 inches in length.

The breakdown of stockings by lake, with the respective counties listed in parentheses, follows:

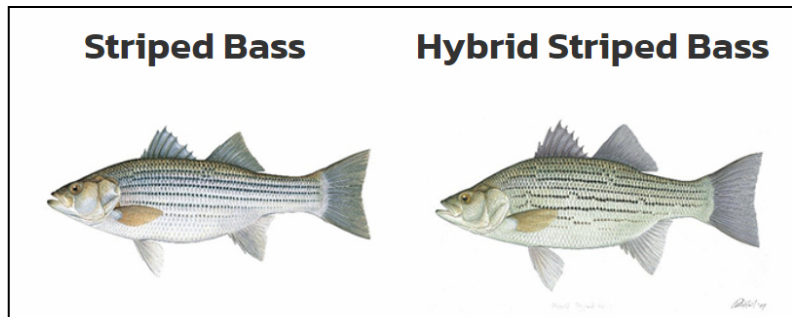
- Worster Lake (St. Joseph) – 3,270 hybrids
- Gilbert Lake (Marshall) – 370 hybrids
- Cedar Lake (Lake) – 7,810 hybrids
- Lake Shafer (White) – 12,910 hybrids
- Nyona Lake (Fulton) – 1,040 hybrids
- Lake Freeman (Carroll and White) – 15,470 hybrids
- Clare Lake (Huntington) – 420 hybrids
- Shadyside 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) – 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/stripped-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.



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

For immediate release: July 25, 2025

Amax Trail Opens in Newburgh

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Warrick Trails celebrated the opening of the Amax Trail today.

“Trails are all about making connections between people, places, and Indiana’s great outdoors,” said Allen Hurst, trails manager for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR). “The opening of the Amax Trail in Warrick County makes those connections, and we’re excited to have supported its construction.”

The 1-mile asphalt trail was constructed by Warrick Trails with help from a \$492,950 grant administered by the DNR.

The Amax Trail adds a critical 1-mile connection to the Warrick Trails system, linking Castle High School to Friedman Park, Vann Park, several neighborhoods, and Amax Athletic Fields. This connection completes a seamless 8-plus mile corridor and strengthens the overall network of more than 16 miles of trails throughout Warrick County.

“We are thrilled to officially open the Amax Trail,” said Courtney TenBarge, executive director of Warrick Trails. “This connection has been years in the making and represents exactly what Warrick Trails is all about – partnership, community investment, and long-term vision. It is a key piece to connect another park to surrounding neighborhoods, schools and parks, and we are so thankful for the partnership with Indiana’s Next Level Trails Grant.”

DNR has led the largest infusion of trails funding in state history, with \$180 million in dedicated trail funding administered through DNR that facilitates critical trail connections within and between Hoosier communities. A total of 48 of the 89 projects are complete, with another 18 under construction. With this opening, more than 140 miles of trail have been built since the program’s inception.



Media contact:

Holly Lawson, DNR Communications, phone: 317-533-0013, or email: hlawson@dnr.IN.gov.

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

For immediate release: August 18, 2025

Indianapolis Angler Catches State Record Mooneye

Indianapolis resident Tyler Baumann caught a 9-ounce mooneye on the East Fork of the Whitewater River on June 5 in Dearborn County, beating the previous record of 5.8 ounces set in 2019 on the Ohio River in Clark County.



Tyler Baumann poses with the new Indiana state record mooneye.

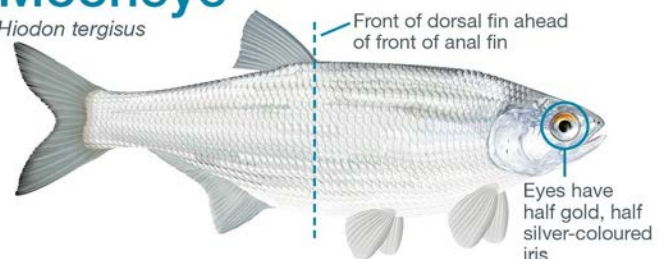
Baumann caught the 12-inch-long state record fish from a kayak using a night crawler under a bobber. State record fish are determined by weight rather than length.

Mooneye are found in large rivers throughout Indiana. Mooneye and goldeye look similar and are often mistaken for one another. To differentiate between the two, look at where the dorsal fin starts in comparison to the anal fin. For mooneye, the start of the dorsal fin is either before or in line with the start of the anal fin. For goldeye, the start of the dorsal fin is behind the start of the anal fin.

Learn more about the Indiana Record Fish program or Fish of the Year program at on.IN.gov/recordfish.

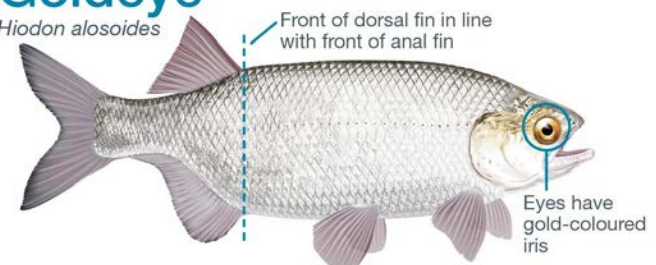
Mooneye

Hiodon tergisus



Goldeye

Hiodon alosoides



Learn about purchasing a fishing license at gooutdoorsIN.com.

Media contact for this subject only:
Sanden O'Connell,
District 4 Assistant Fisheries Biologist,
Phone: 463-269-2417, or
Email: soconnell@dnr.IN.gov

The Fish with Many Names, Gaspergoos are Exciting to Catch

By Mike Schoonveld

Most likely you've heard the fish in this title more often called sheepheads, white perch, grunts or croakers. Most fish experts say the proper "common name" for the *Aplodinotus grunniens* is freshwater drum. They say they are related to saltwater drums – most of which also go by a variety of names.

The first time I heard of this "fish of many names" called a gaspergoo was when a guide in a salt marsh on the Texas Gulf Coast told me the black drum I'd just caught was related to the gaspergoos they'd catch in freshwater lakes. A short conversation convinced me he was talking about freshwater drum. I've been calling them gaspergoos ever since.

The first of this species I caught came out of Lake Erie on a family vacation when I was in my youth. A bit of trolling with a white Roostertail spinner would quickly put what Erie anglers called sheepheads on the line. I never got tired of reeling them in, they were twice the size of the yellow perch we caught regularly. The only downside (I thought) was it took twice as long to fillet them.

Though I still go to Lake Erie a few times each year, our target species is now walleye. The sheepheads are still abundant, but if you are fishing with a crew of walleye snobs, they look on every one of them with disdain. We could be hooking up with bluefin tuna, super-sized muskies or any other species and none would measure up to a walleye in their minds.

I like hooking a few gaspergoos when I'm walleye fishing. They remind me that catching fish is more than just catching "fillets." For fear of upsetting the walleye snobs, let me just say if you hooked a four-pound walleye to a four-pound sheephead, you'd soon see how fast a drum could pull a walleye backwards.

I'm a Lake Michigan guy, however, and though freshwater drum are native to Lake Michigan, I fished there for years before I ever caught one. The population seems to have increased in the past decades, perhaps because these are one of the few fish that eat the invasive zebra and quagga mussels that have otherwise been so devastating to the Great Lakes ecosystem.

One difference I've noted about Lake Michigan drum is size. Gaspergoos can grow to huge sizes (by freshwater standards) though most of them I've caught are panfish-sized – perhaps a half-pound to a couple of pounds. In



Capt. Mike Schoonveld poses with a good-sized Lake Michigan gaspergoo – or sheephead – or freshwater drum. Photo by Tom Berg.

Lake Erie sheepheads are a bit larger - four to six-pounders are somewhat common and bigger ones are caught regularly.

In Lake Michigan, I can't remember ever catching one under five pounds or so, and one that small is rare. Lake Michigan 'goos are huge!

So when a friend of mine texted me a fishing report in July that said he'd caught three Skamania steelhead and 17 gaspergoos one day, I was excited, but not about the steelhead.

I called Tom Berg and we headed for Portage a couple of days later. We weren't disappointed. We met at 4:45am and the boat was in the water before first light.

Out on the fishing grounds, Tom had just positioned the first rod he'd deployed in a rod holder on the back of my boat and was starting to set another lure over the stern when the first fish bit. His fish stretched the line taught, pulled out several yards of line against a tight drag and the rod doubled-over in a steep bend. Fish on!

I watched the slick water behind the boat, but the fish stayed deep. Steelhead will head for the surface and make repeated jumps as soon as they feel the sting of the hook. Not so with gaspergoos. They stay down and pull hard.

And so began a memorable morning of fishing as we caught 'goos, freshwater drums, sheepheads and several other representatives of these ugly fish with many names. As I recall, the largest weighed in at 14 pounds (the biggest steelhead was only 12). I cleaned the smallest, a five-pounder, since my wife asked me to save one to cook up as "poor-man's lobster."

The rest were released to disappoint future anglers who are trout or salmon snobs and can't understand the fun that Lake Michigan's gaspergoos, Lake Erie's sheepheads or freshwater drum in general can provide anglers from here all the way to Texas.



Tom Berg displays a trophy-sized Lake Michigan gaspergoo he caught and released on Mike Schoonveld's boat *Brother Nature* near the end of July. Photo by Capt. Mike Schoonveld.



THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US



Philip “Phil” Junker – Age 85 – HOW Past President
August 15, 1940 – August 17, 2025

Philip Junker, 85, of Goodlettsville, Tennessee (formerly of Derby, Indiana), passed away on August 17, 2025. Born in Miami, Florida, on August 15, 1940, and raised in Marshall, Illinois, Phil grew up with a deep love of the outdoors that became a lifelong passion.

Phil built a respected career in telecommunications, working with Indiana Bell, AT&T, and Ameritech in public relations and community engagement, and as the Founding President of the Putnam County Convention & Visitors Bureau. He also lent his voice to broadcasting, including memorable live reporting for WIBC in Indianapolis. Alongside his professional work, Phil proudly served 30 years in the U.S. Air National Guard, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Phil was perhaps best known as a gifted outdoor writer, sharing stories of fishing, hunting, and conservation in numerous publications. His respect for nature, gentle humor, and storytelling inspired countless readers. He was a member of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers for decades, and served as president of the organization twice – in 1975 and again in 2002. He also dedicated himself to his community, coaching youth sports, working with the Boy Scouts, and supporting local initiatives.

For more than 57 years, Phil shared his life with his beloved wife, Phyllis (Teschmacher) Junker, who preceded him in death in 2020. Together, they built a family filled with love, laughter, and tradition. Phil is survived by his cherished partner, Mary Sueiro; his children, Erik (Sarah) Junker and Michelle (David) Fields; and five



treasured grandchildren—Denver, Micah, Kennedy, Meredith, and Allison.

Known for his warmth, kindness, and wit, Phil often reminded friends and family that “getting old ain’t for sissies.” He will be remembered as a devoted husband, father, grandfather, veteran, friend, mentor, and storyteller whose legacy lives on in his writing, his service, and the many lives he touched. He will certainly be missed by many.

Family and friends are invited to a Celebration of Life at the Derby Community Center, 12800 N. State Road 66, Derby, Indiana 47525, on Sunday, August 24, 2025. Visitation with the family will begin at 2:00 p.m., with the service starting at 3:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in honor of Philip Junker to the Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center, supporting cancer research.

Explore the Kentucky Lake Area For Oversized Blue Catfish!

by Tom Berg

Last September I fished Kentucky Lake and the surrounding waters when I attended the annual AGLOW (Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers) conference. Kentucky Lake is an excellent fishery and my partners and I caught several species of fish – including largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, yellow bass, white crappie and freshwater drum. There are also blue catfish, channel catfish, white bass, bluegills, giant reedear sunfish and many other fish species in this expansive reservoir.



Tucker Travis smiles over a big blue catfish that he caught and released while fishing below the Barkley Lake Dam. These fish can really fight hard in the current! Photo by Tom Berg.

Several years ago, fish populations in Kentucky Lake were suffering due to the influx of invasive Asian carp, among other things. But the lake has truly rebounded and the gamefish are doing very well now. Largemouth bass, and smallmouth bass in particular, are really thriving. More about that in another article.

When I fished here last fall, I fished for bass on the main lake one day and fished below the dam for blue catfish the following day. Both outings were very successful, but I enjoyed the catfish trip the most because the action was absolutely nonstop. We didn't catch any really big blue cats that day, but we did catch more than 50 eating-sized catfish.

I fished with local expert Tony Travis that day, and he has been fishing the Kentucky Lake area all of his life. He especially likes fishing for blue catfish below the Kentucky Lake Dam and the nearby Barkley Dam. Although we

caught lots of eater-sized catfish last September, Tony recommended I come back in June or early July when the really big blue catfish are present. That sounded good to me!

As luck would have it, I could not make the trip in June, so I postponed the trip until mid-July. I knew the biggest fish would probably be gone by that time, but Tony said we should still have a chance at some good-sized cats. He was absolutely right!

Tony picked me up at the resort where I was staying and we fished for catfish below the Barkley Lake Dam on two consecutive days. Tony brought along his son Tucker each day, and the fishing for the three of us was awesome. There was a lot of current coming out of the dam, and Tony used his expert boat-handling skills to get the boat in position "in the boils", as he called it, and hold us steady as we motor-drifted downstream on each drift. If he would have killed the engine completely, the strong current would have made the boat drift much too fast for efficient fishing.

Our catfish rigs were very simple. Tony likes to use extremely short, stout rods, with a bottom-bouncing rig

(continued on next page)

composed of a 5-ounce weight and a #4 circle hook. Tucker and I were in the front of the boat, and Tony instructed us to drop our baits to the bottom, but to keep them just “ticking” along the submerged rocks as we drifted. If we let them actually rest on the bottom, they would almost instantly get snagged on the rocks.



Tom Berg displays another big blue catfish that he caught and released from the Cumberland River near Kentucky Lake. Photo by Tucker Travis.

The water was anywhere from 10-15 feet deep depending on our drift, and all three of us kept our baits down near the bottom. The action was not as fast and furious as it had been last September, but we still caught a nice-sized blue catfish on almost every drift. And these cats were larger on average than the “eaters” we caught last year, too. Many weighed several pounds and some of the biggest ones weighed in the upper teens. My biggest blue catfish weighed more than 16 pounds.

We released all of the big catfish that we caught on this trip, but we did keep several of the smaller blue cats. Blue catfish make for fine eating. Tony kept the fish we saved on our first day of fishing and I kept

some on the second day. My room had a freezer so I was able to fillet the fish and get them frozen solid before heading back home to Indiana.

On this trip, my wife and I stayed at the **Hickory Hill Resort** on the west side of the lake near Benton, KY. This first-rate resort is located right on the water and features pontoon boat rentals, a private dock for those that bring their own boat, golf cart rentals and a brand new screened-in fish cleaning station with double sinks and running water.

This resort is perfect for families, pleasure boaters and serious fishermen, too. They also have a nice swimming pool and a playground for the kids. Be sure to check out their website



(continued on next page)

at: <https://hickoryhillresort.com/> or give them a call at 270-252-8822.



The rental units at Hickory Hill Resort have fully-equipped kitchens for those who prefer to cook their own meals. Each unit even has its own private outdoor grill. However, for those who want to leave the cooking and dishes behind, there are several good restaurants in the nearby area. My wife and I can definitely recommend **The Pond Restaurant** and **Fast Eddie's Place**. We tried both restaurants and they were excellent. The Pond specializes in fried catfish (including an "all you can eat catfish" option) and fried frog legs – one of my favorites. They also feature "all you can eat" hushpuppies and white beans (a local staple) with every meal. You will not leave hungry.

Fast Eddie's doesn't look fancy from the outside, since the sign says Fast Eddie's Bait & Tackle & Restaurant (and it is attached to their gas station). But once inside, the restaurant is actually quite nice and the food and service was absolutely great. We ate lunch there twice during our short stay if that tells you anything!

Besides the obvious fishing, there is a lot to do in the Kentucky Lake area. There is golfing nearby, the Kentucky Opry, Patti's 1880s Settlement, Venture River Waterpark, Land Between the Lakes and much more. Be sure to explore two of the area's websites at: <https://visitkylake.com/> and <https://parks.ky.gov/> to discover additional ideas.

Now is the perfect time to start planning next spring's getaway since resort dates fill up fast. I'm going to try to get there even earlier next year. The bass and crappies will be biting and the bigger catfish should be ready to play, too!



HOW Member News

Photo Honors for Mike Lunsford

HOW's Mike Lunsford was recently honored by three Wabash Valley arts organizations for his photographs. Lunsford's black and white photo, "Art Appreciation," recently won top honors at the 17th annual River City Art Association's Juried Art Exhibit in Terre Haute.

His photo titled "Snow Day," also a black and white photo, was awarded the "People's Choice" at the Gaslight Art Gallery in Marshall, Illinois. This photo is shown at right.



Finally, his black and white portrait, "Morning Coffee" took third place in the annual Midwest Photography Exhibition at the Link Art Gallery in Paris, Illinois. Lunsford will also have a collection of 25 of his photos on display in a personal exhibit at Corporate Square on Ohio Blvd in Terre Haute from January to June, 2026.



Marilyn Culler is Finding Time for Fishing and Birding!

HOW President Marilyn Culler loves exploring Indiana's highways and byways ... and waterways! "I was out on the Tippecanoe River recently, fly fishing with a couple guys," she said. "It was hot, but we



caught some smallies. The water was 87 degrees. It was a good birdwatching day, too. Among other birds, we had two golden eagles fly over us! That in itself was spectacular!"

"I also took my 6-year-old granddaughter fishing a few weeks ago. She caught her first fish at the DNR Fishing Pond at the Indiana State Fair! Over the weekend, she had me read from a fly fishing book at bedtime – it put her right to sleep within a paragraph!"

"I spent a little more time fishing with my fly rod recently, and caught bluegill, a nice crappie, two small largemouth bass, and had my first 'fly' experience with a nice largemouth that weighed about a pound and a half. What fun!"



Memories of HOW Past President Phil Junker

Memory from Jack Spaulding:

I met Phil Junker at my first Hoosier Outdoor Writers conference in 1986. I admired him as he and his wife Phyllis were publishing a small regional outdoor magazine. At the time, publishing a magazine was something I thought I might like to do someday.

I really got to know Phil a couple years later at a HOW fall get together held at “Cousin” Dale Griffiths farm down by Clay City. It was a gathering for outdoor writers to try their hands at the newly created Indiana dove season, do some fishing in Dale’s ponds and the surrounding strip mine lakes, and to gorge ourselves on Dale’s incomparable cornbread and soup beans. With the likes of Dale Griffith, Al Spiers, Bob Smith, Luther Puckett, Ray Dickerson and Phil Junker, there were few dull moments.

The first morning after an overnight in a cold, old dilapidated house trailer, we had breakfast. The chief cook was none other than Phil Junker. Phil asked me how I liked my eggs. “Sunny side up, Sir!” It was the only time this once-lowly sergeant had a retired Lt. Colonel fix him breakfast. Phil’s eggs passed muster and it was the beginning of a lasting friendship.

Trying to expand my footprint in the outdoor written word, I hit Phil and Phyllis up asking to contribute to their publication. They put me to work. Later on as our friendships strengthened, we spent time together at the AGLOW conferences.

My wife Chris and I still talk about when we spent a few days with them at their new place at Derby on the Ohio River. Dining on excellent fish fries with their neighbors, crappie fishing the tributaries, and taking relaxing pontoon boat cruises on the Ohio were very memorable.

As luck would have it, Phil worked for me after I became editor and publisher for *Indiana Conservation Afield* magazine. I never had to worry about editing Phil’s work; it was always letter perfect.

When Phil and Phyllis moved to Cloverdale, I would stop by to see them occasionally in the course of my day job. We stayed close and in touch. Phil and Phyllis were great people and among the best of our friends. We miss them both dearly! God speed old friends!

Memory from Bryan Poynter:

I believe it was the first year of Indiana Outdoors radio (1999) and Phil extended an invitation to come to Derby, IN to experience the river life. It was filled with laughter and good times. I don’t recall all the details or shenanigans, but I do recall I wanted to be a part of this organization! Phil and his family were so hospitable and I was able to meet other members from HOW. Phil was a great man, great writer and an even better human!

Memory from Michael Ellis:

I remember Phil as a kind and warm-hearted guy who touched the lives of others in so many ways.

Memory from Rick Bramwell:

I remember when the DNR invited members of HOW to the opening of the Chinook Recreation Area, located just east of Terre Haute. A press conference was held, and an Indy news team flew in via helicopter. All HOW members had to do was show up with a bunch of fish for a fish fry. We had a choice of three lakes, all gin-clear. Phil Junker and I drew as partners. I had several spinning outfits rigged with two-pound test line and 32nd-ounce jigs tipped with wax worms. Phil and I saved face for the DNR. We were the only ones who caught fish. We had a basket full of bluegill, redear and crappie.

Phil invited me to his place at Derby, but I never made it there. He was a great man and a loyal member of HOW.

Chinook Salmon Fishing: Just the Way We Like It!

by Dave Hoffman

Our last Alaska fishing trip for salmon was six years ago if I remember correctly, which is not likely these days. I am, however, certain that it was in Sitka, Alaska, with its amazing cultural history and fleet of charter boats. Sure, we returned home with a few “Kings” and fond memories, but I also remember that I was not impressed with the boat captain’s performance for numerous reasons, including the fact that he did not operate with the assistance of a first mate.”

Early this spring I checked the Alaska fishing regulations for the 2025 king salmon limits for non-residents. It remains dismal! Non-residents are limited to keeping one king salmon per year. While I feel bad for the conditions in the Alaskan fishery, I am elated that we can catch king salmon much closer to home with a daily limit of five and a possession limit of ten fish for non-residents of Wisconsin. I also take comfort in knowing that our surrounding states are cooperating in managing the viability of our great lake’s fishery.

“We certainly keep track of the fish we catch as does the state,” said Capt. Alex Tamble, owner of Sturgeon Bay Outdoors. “We do not want to overharvest or overstock our fish. We like to see our kings come in about



Heading out of Sturgeon Bay in the pre-dawn darkness in search of king salmon. Photos courtesy of Dave Hoffman.



twenty pounds for a four-year-old fish, while the state is a little more conservative. They are okay with the same age fish weighing in at 17 pounds.” If the kings are lower than that the DNR will consider reducing the number of fish stocked. Charters are required to send the state the number of each species our clients have caught as well as the amount of hours spent fishing. That gives them a ‘Catch-per-unit-effort’ number that helps them with their fishery management program. The DNR also tries to get a handle on the number of stocked fish verses those naturally reproducing in the lakes by clipping the adipose fins in the hatchery prior to stocking.

Our fishing results were tallied in June as my fishing buddies and I completed our annual pilgrimage to Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin to fish with Capt. Alex Tamble. I have shared our

Dave Hoffman (far right) and friends smile over their morning’s catch of Wisconsin king salmon.

adventures with Capt. Alex in previous issues of *The Blade*. I have also reported on our success of catching our limits of kings, but also about the absence of major “clusters” even when we have multiple fish on the line at the same time (“doubles” and “triples”). Plus, the fact that every one of our fish has



First mate Mason cleans fish on the way back to the harbor. Gulls follow the boat, hoping for a few sundry fish scraps.

been netted without a single mishap, which is significant when we are talking about 20-30 pounds of angrily thrashing king salmon at the back of the boat.

There are numerous reasons why Sturgeon Bay Outdoors is so successful. Equipment, experience, and hard work are among the usual reasons, but Capt. Alex will be the first to tell you that a major factor for him is his first mate, Mason, the hardest working person on the boat.

Mason’s day begins at about 2:30 am. He procures ice for the day, readies 13-15 rods and reels, chooses terminal tackle depending on conditions and the weather, sharpens his fillet knife and checks his supply of fish bags, all before clients arrive. On board, Mason and Alex quickly discuss the weather, water temperatures

and depth, lure selection and trolling speed, and then advise their clients of the safely procedures aboard the boat. That is when the action begins.

“I actually enjoy the periods of chaos,” responded Mason, who accepted the position of first mate after high school. “I took to the position fast, almost like I was destined to do the job.”

“That was ten years ago!” added Capt. Alex. “He just has this natural sense, a natural intuition about things that need attention. If he tells me to buy a new type or color of bait, I just buy it! That is what makes us an effective team.”

“That’s just the way we like it,” I responded. “We’ll see you again next year.”

Hoffman and his crew display the end result of a great day on Lake Michigan: lots of fresh chinook salmon fillets!



Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors

Sponsored by Norsemen Outdoors

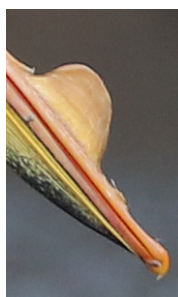
The American White Pelican is an Absolutely Huge Bird!



Close-up



Original



The “What is it?” photo from the previous issue was slightly easier than others, since it was correctly identified by nine (9) HOW members. Phil Bloom, Mike Schoonveld, John Maxwell, Troy McCormick, Mike Lunsford, Bill Keaton, Don Cranfill, Dave Hoffman and Phil Cox were all able to identify it. When we drew a name at random for the **Grundens Transmit X** jacket, Phil Bloom was the lucky winner. Congrats, Phil! We will get the prize sent to you.

As can be seen in the photo to the left, the mystery creature for this issue was an American white pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*). These pelicans are extremely large birds, with a wingspan of more than nine feet! They are even larger than bald eagles, which have a wingspan of only seven feet. They are heavy birds, too, since adults can weigh almost 20 pounds. As their name suggests, American white pelicans are mostly white in color, with the exception of their jet black wingtips. The black feathers can usually only be seen during flight, as the wingtips are typically hidden when the birds are at rest. Their huge, distinctive bill is yellowish-orange, just like their legs and feet.

White pelicans are fish eaters, and they are surprisingly good at catching large numbers of fish. Unlike brown pelicans which dive for fish from high in the air, white pelicans stay on the water’s surface and dip their massive bills into the water to scoop up small fish. Groups of white pelicans often work together to force schools of minnows and other small fish into shallow water where they can be caught fairly easily.

For this issue, our friends at **Norsemen Outdoors** have donated a very nice prize package for the HOW member who is able to guess the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be a high performance ESP Series graphite fishing rod from Norsemen Outdoors. The patent-pending Vibration Amplification Technology built into this ultralight 6’6” rod makes it an excellent choice for the serious panfish and trout angler. See below for additional info.

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 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 dragonfly, for example, go ahead and guess “blue dasher” (hint: it’s not a dragonfly). If you think you know the answer, send an email with your guess to thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you’re right, you’ll be entered in this issue’s prize drawing!

As mentioned, **Norsemen Outdoors** (www.norsemenoutdoors.com) has donated a great ESP Series graphite fishing rod for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s nature question. It is a 6’6” rod (#E66PLS) featuring IM6 High Modulus Graphite construction. This is an excellent prize for anyone who loves fishing, so start thinking! If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw a winner at random from the pool of correct entries. All nature photos here by Tom Berg.

HOW Supporting Member News



HOW Supporting Members Win Awards at 2025 ICAST Show

Orlando, FL: The 2025 ICAST show (International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades) held in Florida from July 15-18 was another great one, showcasing the products of many of the premier companies in the fishing tackle industry. More than 12,000 media and industry representatives from the global sportfishing industry (78 countries) attended the show to see the latest and greatest innovations in fishing gear, tackle, accessories and apparel. This year, companies entered 811 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 this year.

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:

Fly Fishing Rod

[St. Croix Rod](#)

Legend Elite

Contact: [Josh Lantz](#)



Fishing Accessory

[Pradco Outdoor Brands](#)

Whisker Seeker Solar Powered Bait Shack

Contact: [Chad Warner](#)



Saltwater Soft Lure

[Z-Man Fishing Products](#)

PrawnstarZ LB

Contact: [Cory Schmidt](#)



Freshwater Soft Lure

[Z-Man Fishing Products](#)

SWAG LT (Line-Through) Swimbait

Contact: [Cory Schmidt](#)



Saltwater Hard Lure

[Rapala](#)

Rapala Magnum Countdown Elite

Contact: [Sophie Klein](#) (Pocket Hercules)



Freshwater Hard Lure

[Rapala](#)

Rapala Claptail 110

Contact: [Sophie Klein](#) (Pocket Hercules)



More HOW Supporting Member **ICAST** category winners shown on the next page.

HOW Supporting Member News

HOW Supporting Member **ICAST** category winners continued from the previous page.

Terminal Tackle

Rapala

VMC Minnow Shaker Jig

Contact: [Sophie Klein](#) (Pocket Hercules)



Icefishing

Rapala

Strikemaster Maven 40V

Contact: [Sophie Klein](#) (Pocket Hercules)



Novelties & Wellness

Rapala

Giant DT Crankbait USA

Contact: [Sophie Klein](#) (Pocket Hercules)



ICAST stands for the International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades, a mid-July event that is billed as the world's largest sportfishing trade show by the American Sportfishing Association, the owner and organizer of the show. For more information on **ICAST** and each of the category winners, check out the ICAST website: www.icastfishing.org.



HOW Supporting Member News

These pages are devoted to the loyal supporting members of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers. Brief descriptions of new products, award-winning products and press releases are listed here. HOW members interested in reading more can visit the supporting member websites or call or email the media contact for more information.

The Voyager Jacket and Pant from Gill Is Your Everyday Essential

Jacksonville Beach, FL – August 12, 2025 – Gill, a leading innovator in high-performance outerwear, is proud to share the Voyager Suit, a lightweight and versatile waterproof solution for unpredictable weather. The Voyager Suit, consisting of the Voyager Jacket and Pant, is designed to provide dependable wet weather protection for both everyday use and your outdoor adventures like fishing and hiking.

The Voyager Suit is crafted from Gill's exclusive XPLORE® 2-layer waterproof and breathable fabric, ensuring exceptional comfort and performance in changeable conditions. Its minimalist design makes it suitable for a wide range of activities, while its robust features provide reliable protection from the elements.

Voyager Key Features:

- Lightweight and packable design
- XPLORE® 2-layer waterproof and breathable fabric
- PFAS-Free water repellent finish
- Adjustable hood, hem, and cuffs for customizable protection
- Adjustable ankle closures on pant
- Reverse-coil front zip with internal storm guard
- Zippered pockets for secure storage

The Voyager Pant complements the Voyager Jacket, offering instant, lightweight waterproof protection when it's needed most. Utilizing XPLORE® 2-layer waterproof and breathable fabric, the Voyager features a PFAS-Free water repellent finish and adjustable ankle closures to ensure a dry and comfortable fit.



"We are thrilled to share the Voyager Suit to our customers," said Travis Watson, Fishing Sales Manager. "This suit represents our commitment to providing high-quality, performance-driven apparel that can be relied upon in any weather. Whether you're navigating city streets, fishing the bank after work or exploring the great outdoors, the Voyager Suit will keep you dry and comfortable." The Voyager Suit is now available for purchase at gillfishing.com.

About Gill

Trusted on the water for 50 years Gill did not start as a brand or business, it started as a solution to find better more capable sailing clothing using the best fabrics possible. Combined with innovative design to increase performance and tested on elite athletes in the most challenging of conditions it means you can rely on Gill on or off the water – only you limit how you use our products.

Our collection of fishing apparel and gear is specially designed to cover all bases, with fishing clothing and accessories that can truly help you focus on the task at hand, rather than worrying about protecting your body and staying comfortable. Our fishing apparel comes with the best design features and fabrics to allow you to stay warm, dry, and able to concentrate fully on your fishing. Engineered for all elements.

Media Contact:

For more information on Gill fishing apparel, please visit gillfishing.com or contact:
Michele Eichstead, Fishing Marketing Manager
Email: michele.eichstead@gillna.com

HOW Supporting Member News

Spypoint Releases the Flex-Dark and Flex-S-Dark

SPYPOINT, a leader in trail camera technology since 2004, is proud to announce the official release of two new cellular trail cameras to the award-winning FLEX series: the FLEX-DARK and the FLEX-S-DARK. Both models are now available for purchase online and at participating retailers.

“The FLEX-DARK and FLEX-S-DARK are the most customizable trail cameras on the market,” said Jimmy Angers, President and CEO of SPYPOINT. “They were built based on direct feedback from our customers, delivering the control they want to push mobile scouting further than ever. With upgraded features like no-glow and low-glow flash options managed remotely from the SPYPOINT app, these cameras provide the exact tools needed to stay ahead without leaving a trace.”

The FLEX-DARK acts as your undercover eyes and ears in the field, delivering 40MP photos and 1080p videos with sound straight to the SPYPOINT app. With a 100’ flash and detection range, a lightning-fast 0.3-second trigger speed, and advanced concealment features like no-glow and low-glow LED night vision options, the FLEX-DARK unlocks the advantage you’ve been waiting for.

The FLEX-S-DARK takes performance even further, featuring all the benefits of the FLEX-DARK, plus on-demand photo and video requests, and a built-in solar panel and internal lithium battery that replaces up to 1,000 standard AA batteries. It provides power for up to 11 months at a time without using batteries in the camera, even when the panel is not exposed to direct sunlight, reducing the need for field visits and the risk of alerting nearby wildlife. An optional LIT-22 rechargeable lithium battery pack or eight AA batteries can be used to extend battery life even longer.

Gone are the days of a “friendly” bear snapping your antenna or freezing your fingers while replacing batteries. Both cameras feature a new flexible antenna with no-slip brass hardware and an upgraded, easy-open latch. Like all FLEX models, they offer true Dual-SIM technology that automatically connects to all major carriers, seamless setup, versatile capture modes, and GPS capabilities. Each camera also includes a free 100-photo monthly transmission plan, BUCK TRACKER™ AI for species tagging, and a two-year warranty—guaranteeing you reliable performance for years to come.



The SPYPOINT FLEX-DARK and FLEX-S-DARK are now available to purchase online at www.spypoint.ca and at participating retailers.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Cara Fox, Digital Marketing and Communications Specialist

Email: cara.fox@spypoint.com, phone: 514-235-4113.



HOW's Supporting Member Websites

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
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
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
FINS Braid - www.finsfishing.com
Fiocchi Ammunition - www.fiocchiusa.com
Flying Fisherman - www.flyingfisherman.com
G Pucci & Sons - www.p-line.com
Gapen Company - www.gapen.com
Gator Bait Tackle - www.gatorbaittackle.com
Gill Fishing - www.gillfishing.com
Grundens USA - www.grundens.com
Habit Apparel - www.habitoutdoors.com
Hawke Sport Optics - www.hawkeoptics.com
HHA Sports - www.HHAsports.com
Hi Mountain Seasonings - www.himtnjerky.com
Hobie Eyewear - www.hobieeyewear.com
HoldFastPro - www.holdfastpro.com
Hornady Manufacturing - www.hornady.com
Indiana Destination Development Corporation - www.visitindiana.com
Kehrer Fish Co - www.kehrerfishcompany.com
Lawrence County Tourism - www.limestonecountry.com
LensPen - www.lenspen.com
Li'L Tuffy Swimbait - www.ramblingangler.com
MEC Outdoors - www.mecoutdoors.com
Mepps by Sheldons', Inc - www.mepps.com
Mercer Sport - www.mercersport.com
Mister Twister - www.mistertwister.com
MOJO Outdoors - www.mojooutdoors.com
Moving Water Outfitters - www.mwoutfitters.com
Nat'l Shooting Sports Foundation - www.nssf.org

National Wild Turkey Federation - www.nwtf.org
Nesco Vacuum Sealers - www.nesco.com
Norsemen Outdoors - www.norsemenoutdoors.com
Nothead Tackle - www.notheadtackle.com
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - www.mossberg.com
Off Shore Tackle - www.offshoretackle.com
Old Salt Angling - www.oldsaltangling.com
Otis Technology - www.otistec.com
Outdoor Edge - www.outdooredge.com
Owner Hooks - www.ownerhooks.com
Pheasants Forever - www.pheasantsforever.org
Pradco - www.pradcooutdoorbrands.com
Pro-Cure Bait Scents - www.pro-cure.com
Pure Fishing - www.purefishing.com
Quad 4 Plastics - www.quad4plastics.com
Rapala VMC - www.rapala.com
RCBS - www.rcbs.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
Riton Optics - www.ritonoptics.com
Roberts Camera - www.robertscamera.com
Seaguar Fishing Lines - www.seaguar.com
Shipshewana/LaGrange County CVB - www.visitshipshewana.org
Shooter's Choice - www.shooters-choice.com
Sierra Bullets - www.sierrabullets.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
Target Communications Outdoor Books - www.targetcommbooks.com
Toyota Motor Sales - www.toyotanewsroom.com
Traveler's Guide to Firearms Laws of 50 States - www.bookvalueusa.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - www.ttiblakemore.com
Vicious Fishing - www.getvicious.com
Visit Madison, Indiana - www.visitmadison.org
Vortex Optics - www.vortexoptics.com
Whitetails Unlimited - www.whitetailsunlimited.com
Winchester Ammunition - www.winchester.com
W.R. Case - www.wrcase.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

ICAST Show 2025:

(www.ICASTfishing.org)

Orlando, FL

July 15-18, 2025

OWAA 2025 Conference:

(www.owaa.org)

Chattanooga, TN

August 19-21, 2025

AGLOW 2025 Conference:

(www.aglowinfo.org)

Eau Claire, WI

September 21-25, 2025

Indianapolis Fall Boat & RV Show:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

September 19-21, 2025

Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

February 20-22 & 25-March 1, 2026

Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

February 27-March 1, 2026

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*.