

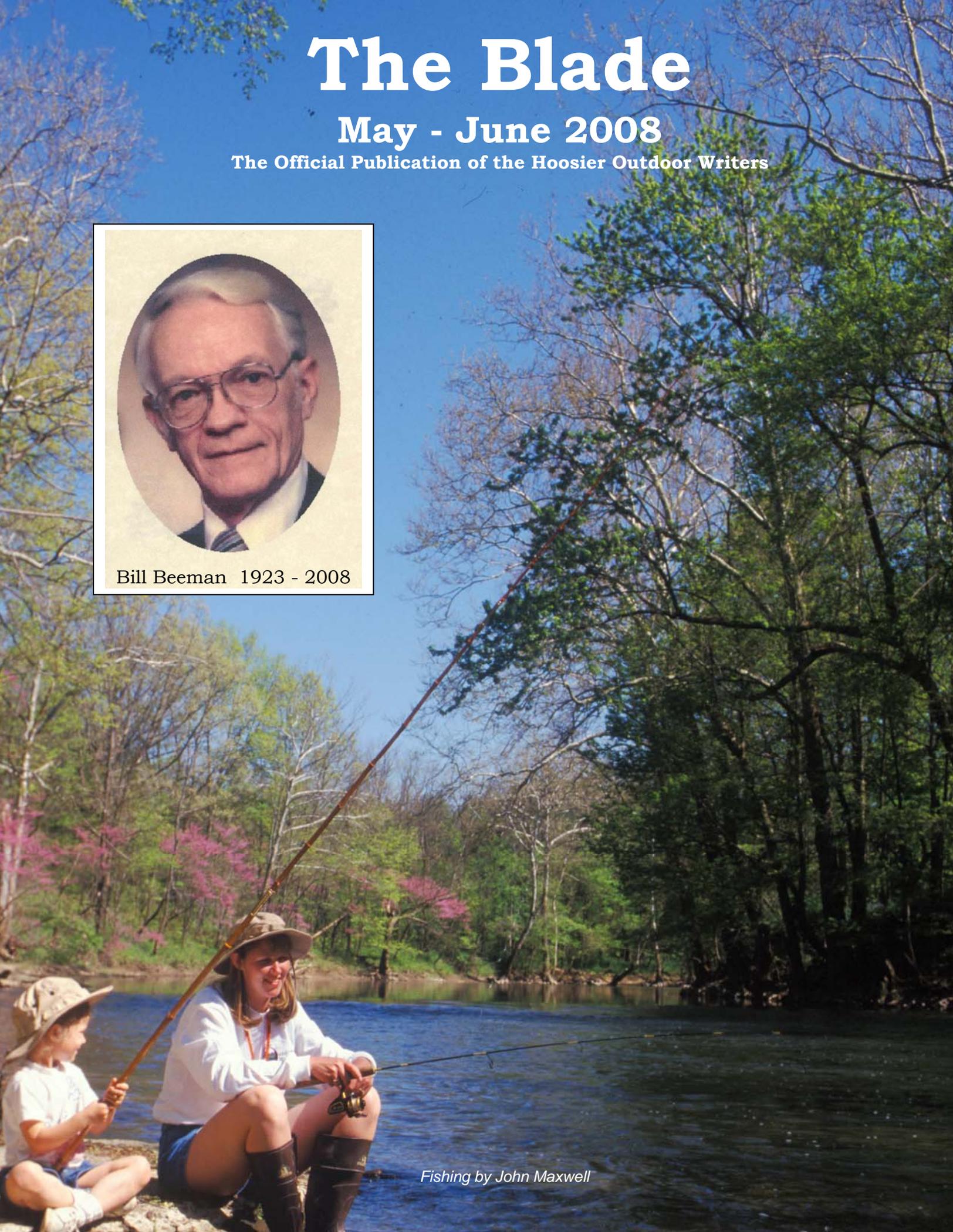
The Blade

May - June 2008

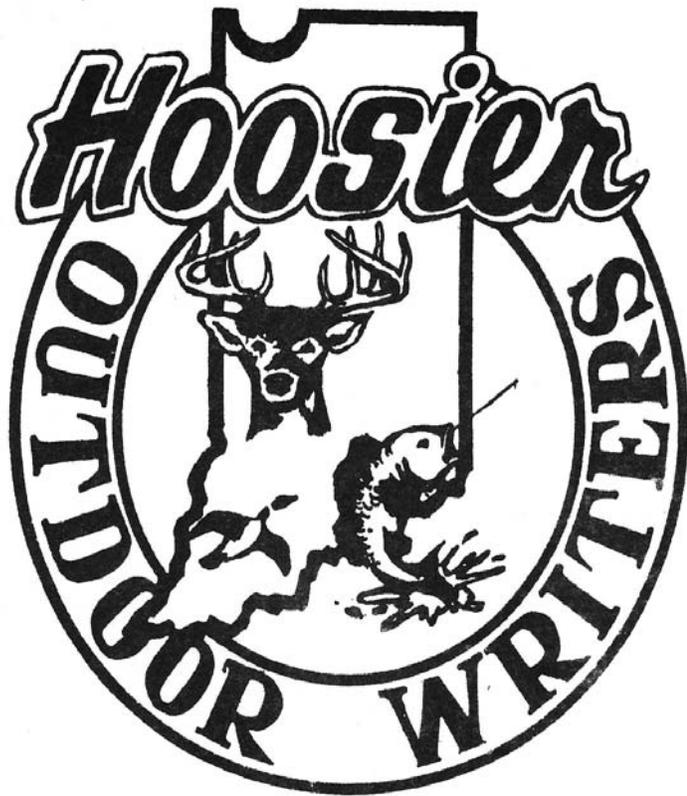
The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



Bill Beeman 1923 - 2008



Fishing by John Maxwell



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 professionals who are keenly interested in the wise use of natural resources in the Hoosier State.

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2009
Region 2 – Ray McCune
2010
Region 3 – Brian Sorrells
2009
Region 4 – Dean Shadley
2010

At Large:

Brandon Butler - 2010
Evie Kirkwood - 2010
Lisa Metheny - 2010
Marty Jaranowski – 2009
Josh Lantz – 2009
Don Mulligan - 2009

All submissions and correspondence in regards to the newsletter should be directed to: Jack Spaulding, 8966 S. 650 W., Milroy, IN 46156, or by e-mail to: icaeditor@hughes.net
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President's Message

by Brent Wheat

Yesterday around noon, I found myself sitting alone on the banks of Sugar Creek in Montgomery County. It was my first fly rod outing in 2008 and it had proved relatively successful even though the first fish of the year turned out to be an anemic shiner. Fortunately, the bass began cooperating shortly thereafter.

After wading for a couple of hours, I found a perfect sandbar at the confluence of largish tributary and decided to take a break. Sitting down in the warm April sunshine, I fished out the single beer that I had stashed inside the back pocket of my fishing vest. It was

lukewarm but tasty nonetheless as the satisfying brew drained with a few swallows. A cigar served as dessert.

I have always considered each outdoor trip as a page in the mental scrapbook, covered with the endless string of pictures we see with our eyes while the words are written by our experiences. Contentedly puffing away and enjoying water music courtesy of a nearby rapid, I spent time collecting my impressions of the scene.

Sitting there, watching a metallic green beetle skitter over the battered toe of my waders, I also searched for a topic of this President's Message that was still waiting to be written upon my return home. Looking around, using all my senses to drink in the moment, I was reminded of some good advice received years ago and decided that it was worthy of sharing: Show, don't tell.

As outdoor communicators, I think we sometimes fall into the predictability trap of using the standard recipe for "hook and bullet" writing. You know: start with the five W's, add a heaping cup of How, mix in one tired metaphor about steam rising off the water and stir. Bake until 850 words and submit. Voila'!

Unfortunately, this can result in one of those examples of why many "mainstream" editors think outdoor writing ranks somewhere below the daily horoscope in terms of substance. We are sometimes our own worst enemies.

The point of this old writing advice is that we must strive to paint a picture using words, not tell the viewer how they should feel. The most powerful writing lets readers make that discovery for themselves.

On the sandbar, I tried to see not just a surrounding forest but record the myriad hues among the wildflowers and the horizontal textures of a single redbud tree counterpoised among black vertical lines of tree trunks. What were the smells borne on the wind? What words could describe the raucous scolding of a blue jay, angry that I had invaded his domain? How could I best convey the sensations of a warm beer exploding with a fragrant "whoosh!" as it was opened?

There were a million details that defined that moment and my job later today is to paint an allegorical tableau with words that will allow my readers their own journey of discovery into that place and time. I challenge the members of HOW to strive for same thing in their work.

Show; don't tell!

From The Editors Desk

by Jack Spaulding

This issue of the Blade is a gem dandy. We have it all, short of romance. We have successful big bird hunters; a HOW member hunting with a big bird; multiple skunk encounters; a planned trip to the North Country land of Jack London; a south-of-the-border fishing siesta where it's rumored Schoonveld paid someone to reel in his fish; and an announced search for an executive director for HOW.

Executive Director

HOW is looking for an executive director for the organization. The executive board has decided we are financially sound enough and diverse enough to have someone at the helm to help guide our group to greater success. Please check out the duties and requirements and remuneration for the successful candidate on page 4 of this

issue of The Blade. E-mail resumes should be sent to Tom Berg at tom.berg@gossinternational.com to be forwarded to the members of the ED Search Committee.

Very Special Miracle Lady

I am happy to report the prayers of our group were answered and answered in a big way. Rita, the beloved wife of Bill Keaton left the doctors in total amazement as she walked away from neuro-critical-intensive care in less than a month.

Bill's journal April 17 entry on Rita's CaringBridge website read: "God is the great Physician! Rita had her first follow up exam today

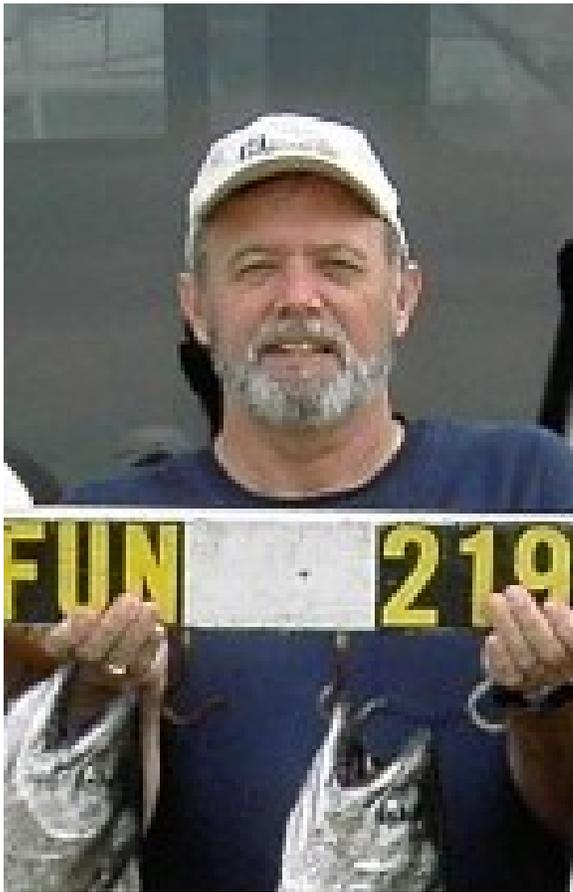
with her neurosurgeon. She had a CT scan prior to the appointment. The first thing Dr. Callahan said at the appointment was that her brain is normal!!! He took her off the anti-seizure medicine and released her from all restrictions. She has no more appointments because they are not needed. Dr. Callahan showed us the CT scan taken 2 days after her accident and the one taken today. The difference is a true miracle!

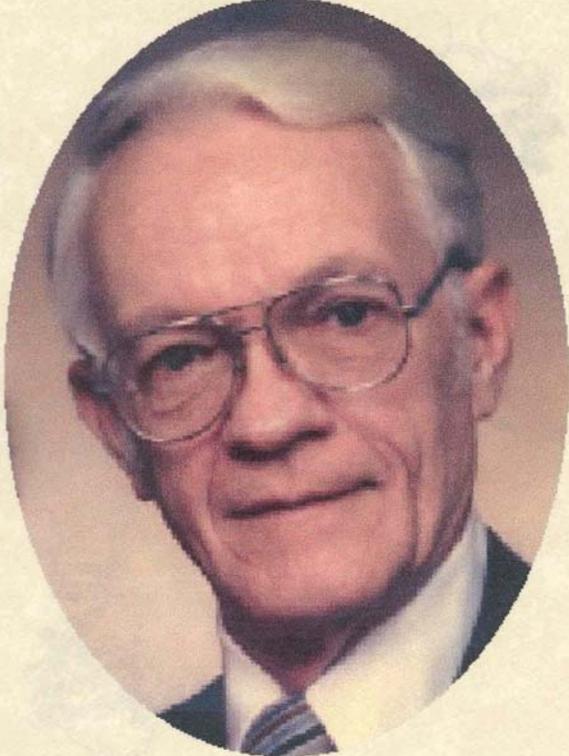
We visited with some of the nurses who took care of Rita, and they simply could not believe Rita was walking in to see them, hug them, thank them and talk with them with absolutely no impairments. One of the nurses who took care of Rita many times said she had NEVER seen anyone who had the type of injury Rita had heal so fast and recover with no impairment. That is a testimony in itself to God's healing power.

Thank you all one last time for all of your healing prayers. Your faith and ours made the difference. God hears the prayers of the righteous. We love all of you."

Health, family, God, country and the great outdoors are just a few of the things that rank the highest in our lives. We need to take time to involve ourselves and show our appreciation for the things that truly make life worth living.

Here's this issue of *The Blade*... read on... Jack





In Loving Memory Of
William A. "Bill" Beeman

Date of Birth
Thursday, January 11, 1923

Date of Death
Monday, May 19, 2008

Time and Place of Services
11:00 A.M. Thursday, May 22, 2008
Holmes Memorial Chapel

Officiating
Terry Norris

Interment
Center Ridge Cemetery
Sullivan, Indiana

Pallbearers

<i>Andy Hoyt</i>	<i>Jerry Huff</i>
<i>Larry Walker</i>	<i>Charlie Reed</i>
<i>Champ Terrell</i>	<i>Jeff Caldwell</i>

Services Entrusted To
Holmes Memorial Chapel

William Albert "Bill" Beeman
1923 – 2008
HOW Executive Director Emeritus

As this issue of *The Blade* approached deadline, we received word our good friend and long-time associate, Bill Beeman passed away. Bill served for many years as the executive director of the Hoosier Outdoor writers and as the executive director of the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers. Bill's unwavering dedication and volunteerism was the driving force which kept both of these outdoor communicator groups alive and viable. He will be greatly missed.

Sullivan May 22 – William Albert "Bill" Beeman died at 9:40 a.m. Monday, May 19, 2008, in Terre Haute Regional Hospital.

He was born January 11, 1923, in Mitchell to George Beeman and Beryl Kinder Beeman.

The 1941 graduate of Mitchell High School was a retired executive vice president of the Indiana coal Association and a former chairman of the Sullivan County Republican Party. He was a former editor for several area newspapers, including the *Sullivan Daily Times*. He was a member of the Sullivan Free and Accepted Masons, the Scottish Rite, a charter member of the Sullivan County Jaycees, a member of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers Association and the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Norma Jane Terrell Beeman; and one brother.

Survivors include one daughter, Patti Roberts, Sullivan; and two granddaughters, Chandra Beeman and Brittnee Roberts.

Services were conducted at 11 a.m. Thursday at Holmes Memorial Chapel with Terry Norris officiating. Following the services, Bill was buried by his wife in Center Ridge Cemetery.

HOOSIER OUTDOOR WRITERS

~ Executive Director Position~

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Facilitate the effective and efficient operations of the elected officers.
- Manage accurate schedule and communications: keep updated schedules, meeting events, communication to related parties.
- Create professional correspondence both internally and externally – ensuring quality, accuracy and positioning of HOW officers.
- Proactively identify ways for HOW officers to operate more effectively and efficiently.
- Administer dues collections – annual
 - Work with Treasurer
- Organize/maintain ongoing member database.
- Assist officers with general communication.
 - E-mail distribution list
 - Minutes, etc.
- Organize and implement annual meeting and mid-year conference (multi-day), including involvement with Supporting Members and Indiana-based CVB agencies.
- Create promotional materials/flyers and important HOW documents (membership applications, Code of Ethics etc.)
- New member packets – send to new members
 - Work with Membership Screening Committee
- Assemble and distribute Membership directory – annual.
- Organize regular correspondence with Supporting Members.
- Maintain HOW website with accurate, timely and relevant information.
- Act as the Editor of “The Blade”
 - Manage to publication deadlines
 - Accountable for content and timely distribution to members

Required Skills:

- Experience in meeting planning and scheduling.
- Efficient organization and project work.
- Knowledge of important and relevant Indiana conservation organizations and important influencers.
- Proficiency at Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, Outlook, PowerPoint
- Working knowledge of website maintenance.

Annual Salary:

- \$3,000 per year.

Interested individuals should send a brief resume to
HOW Secretary/Treasurer Tom Berg at: tom.berg@gossinternational.com
for distribution to the Executive Director Search Committee

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

HOW extends a warm welcome to our growing ranks of outdoor communicators.

Bob Sawtelle (Active) Corydon, IN
Sponsor: John Maxwell
Jameson Olson (Associate) Huntington, IN
Sponsor: Tom Berg
Brian Traylor (Associate) English, IN
Sponsor: Tom Berg

Changed E-Mail Addresses:

Bernie Behnke - bbehnke4875@charter.net
Alan Garbers - agarb84@bpl.coop
Mike Seeling - bellesdad@gmail.com
Alan Smith - in_outdoorsman@verizon.net

Memorial to Deceased HOW Members

Those Who Have Gone Before Us

Jack Alkire – President of HOW 1979
William “Bill” Beeman
Ed Blann
Charlie Brown
Jim “Moose” Carden President 1982 & 83
Gary Carden
George Carey
John Case
Bill Church President of HOW 1972
Jack “Big Jake” Cooper
Mark Cottingham
Dick Forbes
Fred Heckman
Mike Lyle President of HOW 1981
Ralph “Cork” McHargue President 1976
Bob Nesbit
Jack Parry
Harry Renfro
George Seketa
Al Spiers
Butch Tackett
Robert “Doc” Stunkard
Joe West

Presidents of HOW

Bill Scifres	1969
Bill Scifres	1970
Bill Scifres	1971
Bill Church	1972
Rick Bramwell	1973
Jack Ennis	1974
Phil Junker	1975
Ralph McHargue	1976
Tom Glancy	1977
Bob Rubin	1978
Jack Alkire	1979
Louie Stout	1980
Mike Lyle	1981
Jim “Moose” Carden	1982
Jim “Moose” Carden	1983
John Davis	1984
John Davis	1985
Ray Harper	1986
Ray Harper	1987
Ray Dickerson	1988
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1989
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1990
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1991
Jack Spaulding	1992
Jack Spaulding	1993
John Rawlings	1994
Phil Bloom	1995
Martin (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

HOW Membership Audits

As all HOW members know, there are several different membership classifications in our organization. Members may be classified as Active, Associate, Active Student, Associate Student, Supporting or Retired. Although new members are audited before joining HOW to verify that they meet the membership criteria, current members have not been audited on an ongoing basis.

As you may imagine, over the years this has led to some members retaining Active status even though they might not still qualify as Active members. If we are to be taken seriously as an organization, we must represent ourselves as professional, working outdoor communicators. This makes perfect sense.

Organizations such as HOW are only as professional as the members who belong to them. Our goal is to strive for a membership that maintains an exceptional reputation for honesty, integrity and professionalism. One way that we can do that is to periodically ask individual members to provide proof of their professional credentials.

At the annual conference in February (and again in the post-conference newsletter), HOW President Brent Wheat discussed this issue and appointed me as the chair of the HOW Membership Auditing Committee. To this end, and beginning this month, the Auditing Committee will begin sending out random membership audit forms to our Active members.

Rest assured, the purpose of the audits is not to exclude anyone from membership in HOW. Each and every member of HOW is important. However, if you carry the status of "Active" member, it is reasonable for others to expect that you are indeed a working, producing outdoor communicator. If you no longer meet the criteria to qualify for Active status, we would like for you to remain in HOW as an Associate member. Then, when the quantity of your published work increases and you again qualify for Active status, you will be encouraged to seek re-classification as an Active member again.

As mentioned, the audits will be conducted randomly to ensure fairness. Letters will be sent out on a bi-monthly basis to the lucky winners of the audit lottery, and those members will have a period of 30 days to provide samples of their work to the Auditing Committee. Members who successfully pass the screening will have their names listed in the next issue of the newsletter to certify that they have completed their review.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this important task. With your help, we can ensure that HOW's Active members represent a strong group of truly professional outdoor communicators.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions.

Tom Berg
Chairman
Membership Auditing Committee



Tom Berg Off To Alaska Wild Country

Tom Berg was the lucky winner of the Alaskan fishing trip at the HOW Conference in February, so he is busy getting ready to head north in June to battle big salmon and giant halibut!

The trip was provided by Ninilchik Charters and sponsored by Indiana Outdoor News, and includes salmon fishing on the famous Kenai River and Kasilof Rivers. Kings and sockeyes will be the two main species of salmon running in the area at the end of June, and Berg hopes to connect with both. The trip also includes a day of halibut fishing for tackle-busting flatfish.

If time allows, Berg also plans to chase saltwater rockfish, lingcod, silver salmon and any other oceanic species that are available. In the rivers, he will also be on the lookout for rainbow trout, Dolly Varden and maybe even a grayling or two. A full report will be available after the trip!

HOW Active Members Invited to OWAA Conference!

Kevin Rhoades and the executive are looking for a few HOW invitees to show up at the annual OWAA Conference. Rhoades had this to say, "On behalf of Outdoor Writers of America (OWAA), I'd like to extend an invitation to those of you who are not members of OWAA to participate in next month's conference in Bismarck, N.D.

Come as a guest of an OWAA member and you'll pay the same low conference fee as our members. Registration includes admittance to all workshops, newsmakers, hospitalities and most of your meals -- and pre- and post conference trips, too!

OWAA's 2008 conference agenda: <http://www.owaa.org/conf-2008/agenda-conf2008.html>
Lodging: <http://www.owaa.org/conf-2008/travel-housing.html> Registration: <http://www.owaa.org/conf-2008/registration-conf2008.html>

HOW members wanting to attend OWAA's June 21-24, 2008, conference, should contact either Conference Planner Robin Giner at rginer@owaa.org or Executive Director Kevin Rhoades at krhoades@owaa.org. Phone = 406-728-7434.



Lisa Metheny Gets A Limb Hanger

Hi Tom,

I am not sure if it is too late for the newsletter, but you asked what HOW members were up to.

I just got home from Game Trails in Kentucky where I hunted with professional hunters Greg Ritz and Stan Potts and some other media professionals.

I harvested this nice gobbler that weighed 23 # had a 9.5 inch beard and 1 1/4 spurs.

Hope you're off hunting something somewhere :)

Lisa Metheny

Gene Clifford Turkey Time Trials

Tom,

My two turkey hunting companions and I harvested these 3 birds in a 10-minute period from 9:20 to 9:30 opening day of this year's turkey season in Starke County.

Gene Clifford

Editor's Note:

Gene... so happens I am not doing anything from 9:00 to 10:00am on next season's opener. Call me. Jack



The Blade's Skunk Trilogy

Editor's Disclaimer: For some unstated reason (it was Tom's idea), this issue has taken a turn for the olfactory worse as skunks have become a predominant theme.

Again I state: I am only the editor... I can only work with the copy sent for the issue. Needless to say, the following inserts have an odiferous connotation. Jack Spaulding

For Skunk Skinning It Takes A Real Man

Tom Berg smiles over a skunk pelt that is still on the drying board.

This was the first (and last) skunk that he skinned from his trapline last winter. Tom didn't get sprayed, but this critter sure packed a powerful stink! If there had been paint on the walls of the fur shed, it would have been peeling by the time this stinker was ready for the fur buyer!

Ray McCune Weighs In

Tom,

Sorry, I was never insulted by a skunk, but I was present when one nailed my mom.

She undressed in the front yard and headed to the old cellar house where she kept the canned tomatoes and a large wash tub.

NOT A PRETTY SIGHT FOR A 12-YEAR OLD!

Please continue to hold your nose as this segment is continued on the following page... jrs





Schoonveld Rumored To Be “The Skunk Whisperer”

Mike Schoonveld holds one of many skunks he caught on his trapline this past fall/winter. This was a nice double-striped dude, and even though Mike is not smiling, he said the skunk did not spray him. As a matter of fact, he reported he didn't get sprayed at all last season! Of course, anyone who has been in close proximity to a skunk that has sprayed knows the stink molecules often hover in mid-air (if it's not windy) and stick to your clothing if you walk by! Pheeeeew! *Reporting from the skinning shed.. Tom*

A screenshot of the Field & Stream website. The header features the magazine's logo and navigation links for HUNTING, FISHING, GEAR, GUNS, and OUTDOOR SKI. Below the header is a search bar and a list of "TODAY'S NEWS" with links to various articles. A "Photo Contest" section is also visible, along with a "Check out our lists of the ..." section. On the right side, there is a "On Sale" section with a list of items for sale.

Scott Marshall On Field & Stream Website

Hi, Tom. My son, Scott, was briefly featured on the Field & Stream Web site with last year's Indiana youth-season turkey harvest. He submitted the image to the magazine's "Game Faces" section. After he uploaded the photo, he checked back a couple times every day to see if it was accepted. A few days later, it appeared front and center. It's fascinating how online user-generated content is changing magazines, and media in general. For Scott, taking a 23-lb. gobbler with an 11-inch beard and 1 1/4-inch spurs was the biggest thrill — but sharing the experience with the "outdoor community" online was a very close second. When we consider ways to engage kids in outdoor pursuits, online social networks and communities may be a good place to start the hunt.

(PS - Scott took another nice bird this season.)



Brian Sorrells & Friends Go Primitive

Tom,

Some traditional archery friends and I recently made a trip to Wilderness Hunting Lodge in Monterey, Tennessee in late March for a wild hog hunt. We all scored on pigs, with one gentleman taking two,

including one that was so large they had to take it out of the woods with a forklift!!

Even though we traditional archers are often viewed as archaic or, on the flip side, "elitists", neither is actually true. We just enjoy the hunt on a more level playing field, with the simplest of weapons and nothing but the old eye to judge distance and the instinctive skill of the Sylvan archer to hit the mark! Hope all is well with you and yours.



Sincerely, Brian Sorrells



Don Mulligan Does The Black Hills Mulligan 1 – Merriam's 0

Tom,

Here's a photo of me with the Merriam's turkey I killed in the Black Hills, South Dakota.

A foot of snow on opening day made it tough to find birds this year.

Don Mulligan



Mulligan Fishes On The Cheap – Wins Again

Tom,

Here's a photo of me and a 17-pound Northern Pike caught on Fort Peck Reservoir in NE Montana in February. I also caught a 14-pound Laker and 9-pound walleye from the same hole that gave up this fish.

As always, this was a completely do-it-yourself endeavor, as I am too cheap to pay for a guide.

Peck is an awesome, under-fished inland sea in the winter.

Don Mulligan

“Behind the Badge” Focuses On Indiana Conservation Officers



Tom,

I have a new column in Indiana Outdoor News called *Behind the Badge*, True Stories of Our Conservation Officers.

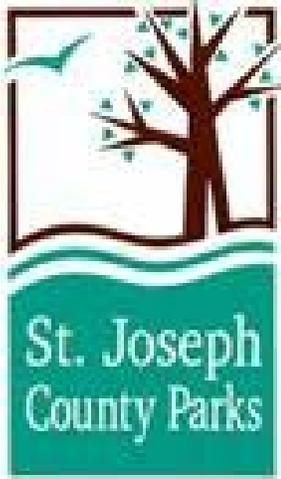
Alan J. Garbers

Gene Clifford Living the Dream

Tom,

Well, the only thing happening here in Valpo is my wife and I are celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary on April 12th.

Gene Clifford



Kirkwood Awarded Conservation Educator of the Year

Evelyn Kirkwood, Director of St. Joseph County Parks, was recently honored by the Soil and Water Conservation District of St. Joseph County as the 2007 Conservation Educator of the Year. Kirkwood was recognized for her skills as a park interpreter and her ability to reach thousands of residents with a conservation message through her bi-weekly column in the South Bend Tribune and her weekly nature show, Outdoor Elements, on WNIT Public Television.

The award was presented at the Soil and Water Conservation District's annual meeting on February 22, 2008. Kirkwood has worked at St. Joseph County Parks for over 20 years. Her column in the South Bend Tribune began in 1996.



Raghorn-Indiana Outdoor News Now Has A New Web Page

Effective immediately - - you can visit our web page by logging on to - - www.IndianasOutdoorNews.com

Because we are Indiana's Outdoor News... the name fits.... We are currently having problems with the old address name of "IndianaOutdoorNews.net"

Please make a quick note of the change (or addition).

Thanks,

Brian Smith, CEO ><(((°>

Indiana Outdoor News
www.IndianasOutdoorNews.com
publisher@raghorn.com
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“Shawshank Schoonveld” Goes South of the Border

In the movie, *The Shawshank Redemption*, Andy Dufresne told Red if he ever gets paroled, head for the sleepy little Mexican fishing village called Zihuantinejo. The final scene has Red and Andy reunited on the Pacific shoreline, south of the border.

I remembered the scene and early last winter, while contemplating a visit to warmer climates, I Googled Zihuantinejo to discover it's no longer a sleepy little village; rather, a destination with an international airport and sister-city to the high-rise tourist destination called Ixtapa. A bit more E-surfing, however, led me to destination perfectly suited to my wants, my fishing partner's hopes and cross our fingers, one the wives would approve.

Ninety minutes south of Zihuantinejo, lies the sleepy little fishing village of Playa Escondido and the Bahia de la Tortuga Lodge. As we traveled south we left the tourist area behind us. Adobe buildings, open air homes, restaurants, some brightly painted - others absolute hovels. Coconut farms, a few citrus groves, skinny cows.

Suddenly we were there.

The five room lodge was about the size of a normal ranch house here in the states. Rooms were for sleeping and showering. Meals, socializing was done on the palapa (patio) outside covered by a palm frond roof.

Our group of six were the only guests so we set up one of the tables as the Margarita Bar, kept a cooler of Coronas on ice and settled in. None of the 3 people who worked at the place spoke a word of English.

The town had approximately 156 people, 93 dogs, one horse and perhaps 241 chickens. (The number of chickens varied after each meal time.)



Catching fish is only one part of a fishing trip. We caught several dorado (mahi mahi) each day from pangas or ocean skiffs. Some days we ended up more than 20 miles offshore but there was no wind or waves so it wasn't worrisome.

The dorado we caught were very big (40 to 50pounds) and from experience, I'd say a 50 pound dorado is the equivalent in fight to an 80 pound sailfish. One sailfish was boated during our stay.

The ladies had miles and miles of beach to themselves. No t-shirt shops, no peddlers selling blankets, no jewelry hawkers. Food was authentic and terrific. Didn't know what most of it was but it was nothing like Taco Bell Burritos. We had hot and cold soups, dorado salads, plenty of chips and salsa. Wow.

Tough Times On The Beach,

Mike



Martino Reports On An Apex Predator

“Sky Hunter”

by John Martino

Slow and deliberate, Ron Brown picks his way along an overgrown, brushy fence row, stopping to kick thick stands of weeds. A thick leather glove covers his left hand. Back-dropped against a gray sky a red-tailed hawk circles effortlessly overhead, gracefully maneuvering in the changing wind currents. Without warning, a rabbit rockets from a dense clump of foxtail. Tucking its broad wings, the hawk drops from the sky and Brown witnesses one of nature's most awesome events.

Brown has always enjoyed hunting. As a young man he would take to the field in search of deer and small game with a firearm. As his skills grew, so did his passion for challenges so he then took up archery. Now Brown continues to hunt, but with a whole new twist. He is now immersed in what is perhaps the most natural and purest form of hunting man can experience. He has taken up the art of falconry.

Hawks are powerful birds. Before the invention of gunpowder, falconry - the art of using hawks or falcons for hunting - was considered the sport of Kings. Even today falconry is only shared by an elite few.

Since childhood Brown has always been fascinated with birds of prey, as most people are. A sleek package of speed and elegance, raptors soaring through the sky have the ability to mesmerize even those who are not outdoor oriented.

Through a twist of fate, Brown found himself retiring early from the Kokomo Police Department due to health reasons. "Now I have falconry to take up my time," he said.

In the beginning, through careful research Brown began acquiring as much information as possible. He later contacted the Indiana Department of Natural Resources where he was given a list of licensed falconers. He contacted Master Falconer, Dan Bloodgood, from Frankfort. That first conversation lasted several hours with Bloodgood detailing everything associated with the noble sport of falconry.

After months of gathering information and talking to experienced falconers, Brown obtained his first red-tailed hawk, a female he named Terra. He kept the bird for one year before releasing her back into the wild. "She was an awesome bird," he said, "but I wanted a smaller, faster male." His current hawk is named "General Patton" which he calls "General" for short.

Many days you can find the Brown walking brushy fields and fencerows with General either soaring majestically overhead or perched in a nearby tree looking for game that Brown may push into the open.

The bond between the two is strong and many times they will share the fruits of the General's success. "When the General takes a rabbit, I will give part of it to my bird, and I'll take the rest of it

home to eat," Brown explained. It is not uncommon to see the pair driving around town with General sitting on his own perch in the back of Brown's extended cab pick-up truck.

When it's time to go home, Brown will put a small piece of meat in his leather covered hand. Even at a distance General has no problem seeing it with its keen eye sight. It then soars in landing on Brown's gloved hand. But the retired police officer has not been without injuries either. "There have been a few times when he landed on my arm and missed the glove," he explained. "Their talons are amazingly sharp and I have ended up with puncture wounds several times," he added.

There are only 79 licensed falconers in Indiana. Modern falconry is perhaps the most highly regulated sport in the United States, requiring both federal and state licensing. Anyone interested in this activity must first start out as an apprentice, working under the tutelage of an experienced falconer. After a period of several years they can then obtain a "General" license. The pinnacle is the graduation to a Master Falconer."

In Indiana, apprentice falconers must begin with either an American kestrel or red-tail hawk. To obtain one of these birds, licensed falconers must trap one themselves. Brown prefers the red-tail. "Because of the area I like to hunt and their ability to take larger game, my favorite is the red-tail," Brown explained.

If you mistakenly think it is unfair to keep a bird of prey in captivity, guess again. By contrast, raptors in the care of conscientious falconers are given a head start on survival. They are free from vulnerabilities they would certainly encounter in the wild. Provided with a consistent food source, veterinary care and the opportunity to hone their hunting skills over time, falconry birds defy the dire statistics of nature living almost twice as long as they would in the wild.

"Falconry is a form of hunting unlike all others," Brown said. "It is more than a sport or activity. It is a full time obligation and a lifestyle that demands a serious commitment. These birds are not pets and must be exercised and allowed to hunt often to maintain their mental and physical health. I try to get General out at least five days a week all year long."

"Getting involved in falconry can be amazingly rewarding," he continued, " but a lot of thought needs to go into it before getting started, it should not be a casual decision."

In addition to hunting, the Kokomo resident enjoys giving presentations to schools and civic groups. "I love educating people on the art of falconry," he added, "especially kids."



Megan Smith Makes Dad “Proud” With A Limb Hanger

The Indiana Wild Turkey Youth Season successfully opened this morning around 8:30 AM !!!
25 pounds with an 11" beard and 14 mm spurs.
Megan took this big tom with her Remington 1100 20ga @ 31 yards. She had five toms, three jakes and eleven hens around her all at once...

As you can guess we are very proud of her!

Supporting Members' Websites

3M Scientific Anglers - www.scientificanglers.com
Alpen Optics - www.alpenoutdoor.com
B&M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Bass Pro Shops - www.basspro.com
Birchwood Casey - www.birchwoodcasey.com
Blackpowder Products, Inc. - www.bpiguns.com
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Horton Mfg Company - www.crossbow.com
Hunter's Specialties - www.hunterspec.com
Indiana Conservation Afield - www.ico.com/Conservation-Afield/order-form.html
Indiana Outdoor News - www.raghorn.com
Kwikee Kwiver Company - www.kwikeekwiver.com
L&S Bait Co. - www.mirrolure.com
Lacrosse - www.lacrossefootwear.com
Lake County CVB - www.lakecountycvb.com
Leupold - www.leupold.com
Lightfield Ammunition Corp. - www.lightfieldslugs.com
Maptech - www.maptech.com
Midway USA - www.midwayusa.com
Muzzy Products Corp. - www.muzzy.com
Ninilchik Charters - www.ninilchik.com
Off Shore Tackle Co. - www.offshoretackle.com
Optronics, Inc. - www.optronicsinc.com
Orange County CVB - www.historicsouthernindiana.com
Outdoor Promotions - www.crappieusa.com and www.kingkatusa.com
Plano Molding Company - www.planomolding.com
Pure Fishing - www.purefishing.com
Quaker Boy, Inc. - www.quakerboygamecalls.com
Ranger Boat Company - www.rangerboats.com
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Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
Shakespeare Fishing Tackle - www.shakespeare-fishing.com
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ThermaCELL - www.thermacell.com
Tri-Tronics, Inc. - www.tritronics.com
WaveSpin Reels - www.wavespinreel.com
W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery - www.wrcase.com
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U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance - www.ussportsmen.org

HOW members are encouraged to contact our supporting members' websites for general information and answers to product and service questions.

DNR NEWS

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington St. W255 B
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2748
Phone: (317) 232-4200

For immediate release

James Named to Great Lakes Commission

Bill James, chief fisheries biologist for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, has been nominated to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission by President George W. Bush.

“It’s humbling and kind of mysterious,” James said of the announcement.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission was established in 1955 by Canada and the United States to control the invasive sea lamprey but has expanded to incorporate a wide range of aquatic research and management efforts in the Great Lakes.

“This reflects admirably on the career and talents of Bill James, but at the same time sheds a favorable light on DNR and our state,” said Gov. Mitch Daniels, who last year honored James for 35 years of state government service.

The GLFC focuses on aquatic resource management issues on lakes Michigan, Superior, Huron, Erie and Ontario and represents Canada and the eight states that border them – Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Indiana has 45 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline.

“Indiana is a Great Lakes state,” James said. “So when you list the Great Lakes states, there are eight of them. It doesn’t say, ‘Seven big ones plus Indiana.’ There are eight, and Indiana is one of them.”

An Illinois native, James has been in charge of the Division of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Section since 1978. He previously worked as a reservoir biologist, statewide research supervisor and regional supervisor. James actually began his career with the DNR while in college, spending three summers assisting with lake and stream investigations throughout Indiana.

“Bill is the full package – humble, dedicated, loyal and hard working,” DNR Director Robert E. Carter Jr. said. “I’m confident he will approach this task with the same diligence he has given all these years to DNR and our state fisheries programs.”

James’ duties with DNR include overseeing statewide programs of fish management, research, hatcheries, public access, aquatic habitat, aquatic invasive species control and contaminants.

He led management team efforts to extend migratory runs of steelhead trout and salmon on the St. Joseph River through Michigan and Indiana. That award-winning partnership project between Indiana DNR, Michigan DNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service resulted in the construction of four migration ladders to assist fish in passing over dams, a new fish hatchery in Indiana and expanded public access facilities on the river.

James has served on numerous state and national committees, is a founding member of the six-state Ohio River Fisheries Management Team, and has worked with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission in several capacities as a committee chair.

“I kind of have an idea what they do, but because I’m not working full-time on Lake Michigan issues -- there will be a brief, steep learning curve just to get up to speed on all the issues that go beyond Indiana, from Lake Superior to the St. Lawrence Seaway,” James said. “That’s the real challenge, plus running out and getting a passport so I can run back and forth to Canada as needed.”

James will be completing a six-year term on the commission, which has four members and an alternate from each of the two countries.

Two previous DNR employees served on the Great Lakes commission – Division of Fish and Wildlife director Frank R. Lockard from 1978-91, and DNR director James Ridenour from 1983-89.

Media Contact: Phil Bloom, (317) 232-4003; cell (317) 502-1683.

For a photo of James, go to <http://dnr.in.gov/press/bill-james-photo.jpg>

DNR NEWS

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For immediate release: May 8, 2008

DNR staffer completes elite conservation leadership class

Mitch Marcus of the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife in Indianapolis, a resident of Greenwood, recently graduated from the National Conservation Leadership Institute (NCLI), an intense seven-month experience designed to address one of the nation's most significant conservation challenges—preparing and retaining leaders.

Marcus was one of 36 in the nation chosen for the second NCLI class, which culminated in April 2008. The class included 21 state fish and wildlife employees, six federal conservation agency employees, one industry employee, and eight nongovernmental agency employees, who worked together during the past seven months on priority leadership challenges and solutions.

“To be chosen among a nation of conservation professionals to take part in this year's class of the institute was a great honor,” Marcus said. “The institute is tackling a very important topic head on—carrying on the legacy of those who are about to retire.”

In fall 2007, the 36 Fellows conquered the institute's intense 10-day residency at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Va. In late April, the Fellows re-convened at Big Cedar Lodge in Ridgedale, Mo., to present the results of their five-month leadership-challenge projects, for which they had individually carried out real, in-the-trenches applications for their respective organizations employing NCLI teachings.

“This year, from all across the nation and from the potential hundreds of natural resource related conservation organizations, 36 Fellows were selected through a competitive process,” said Steve Williams, chairman of the NCLI board and president of the Wildlife Management Institute. “Those selected represented a diverse mix of people and perspectives from across the country and across organizational boundaries.”

Marcus, a graduate of Wabash College and Southern Illinois University, has been with the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife since 1993. He has served in various positions within the wildlife section of the Division. Currently, Mr. Marcus is serving as research unit supervisor and wildlife staff specialist in the Division's central office.

The program is offered each year to a select group identified by their nominating organizations as having the potential to build effective coalitions, lead organizational change, and deliver results, as well as for their work experience and goals.

The training is important to the future of conservation efforts because of anticipated changes in the conservation work force. In the next 10 years, nearly a third of today's natural resource leaders are expected to retire. According to research conducted in 2004, about 77 percent of state fish and wildlife agency senior leadership will retire by 2015, and more than half of federal conservation leaders will retire by the end of 2008.

The NCLI was created to better equip tomorrow's conservation leaders in the latest leadership thinking and practice. Each NCLI Fellow learns from the nation's most influential conservation leaders and leadership experts, including Harvard's Kennedy School of Leadership professor Marty Linsky, who is co-author of the book, "Leadership on the Line."

“The NCLI experience has been unlike any other learning experience and has come at a great point in my career,” Marcus said. “NCLI has introduced me to adaptive leadership, something I will be able to utilize throughout my career in natural resource management.”

“I am thankful to Glen Salmon, Director of Indiana Fish and Wildlife, for his nomination and support for participation in this amazing program.”

Media Contact: Marty Benson, (317) 233-3853; cell (317) 696-9812

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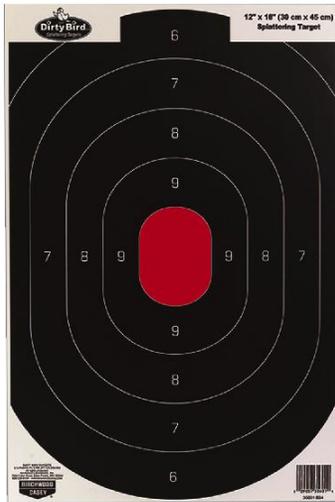
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NOTE: Please send a tear sheet to Todd Binsfeld, 7900 Fuller Road, Eden Prairie, Mn 55344 if the information in this press release is used in an article.

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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
5-14-08

6 year old dies in off-road vehicle accident in Wells County

(Markle, Indiana) A 6 year male juvenile from Markle, Indiana was pronounced dead at 9:22 pm on 5-13-08 at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana as a result of an off-road vehicle accident that occurred on private property near 2605 West 1000 North at 8:22 pm on 5-13-08.

He was a passenger on a 2004 Polaris ATV being operated by a 7 year old female juvenile from Markle, Indiana.

The operator was attempting to go around a barn in a circular course when she turned too sharp and lost control of the vehicle. She was thrown from the four-wheeler and received scrapes and abrasions to her knees, legs and face. She was transported by EMS to Lutheran Hospital for treatment.

Both victims were not wearing helmets at the time of the accident.

An autopsy is pending for the 6 year old male.

Indiana Conservation Officer Erick Bolt is the investigating the accident.

Indiana Conservation Officer Lieutenant Dean Jenkins, Wells County Sheriff's Department, Indiana State Police and the Union Township Fire Department also assisted at the scene.

Indiana Conservation Officer
Rodney D. Clear
Public Information Officer
Northeastern Indiana
Cell: 260-409-1160
Office: 260-244-3720
Fax: 260-244-7126
Email: rclear@dnr.in.gov

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 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 insure 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 Writing Contest among its members. The award winners are announced each year at HOW's annual meeting held in Indianapolis.

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, magazines, trade journals, books, photographs, art, lectures, or other fitting media. Dues: \$15.00 per year. (Basic guidelines of "regularity" of dissemination are: 20 newspaper articles, photos or broadcasts 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; public employees in outdoor fields; educators teaching related subjects; certain sportsmen and retail-level dealers in outdoor goods, equipment or facilities. Dues: \$20 per year.

3. Supporting

Members are those engaged in major commercial efforts directly related to the outdoors, such as manufacturers, distributors, manufacturers' representatives, or advertising agencies serving any of these. Dues: \$35.00 per year.

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. Dues: \$10.00 per year.

5. Associate Student

Members are those who are students who have an active interest in the outdoors in the areas of hunting, fishing, ecology, or in preserving the environment in general. Dues: \$5.00 per year.

Hoosier Outdoor Writers

Application For New Membership

(Check Desired Classification below)

- \$15 _____ Active
- \$20 _____ Associate
- \$35 _____ Supporting
- \$10 _____ Active Student
- \$5 _____ 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	_____ Photography
_____ Books	_____ Radio	_____ Lectures
_____ Television	_____ Teaching	_____ Trade Journals
_____ Artist	_____ 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: _____