

The Blade

July - August 2010

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Bullfrog Contemplations", 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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President's Message

by John Maxwell



Hey HOW, if you get half a chance, attend an Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable Meeting.

HOW joined the Roundtable in May and any HOW member can now attend, learn or speak at an ISR general meeting. ISR has long been a loud lobbying voice on behalf of Indiana's sportsmen and women and has provided members a reliable, reasoned and professional voice in resource conservation legislation.

By attending an ISR meeting, an alert outdoor communicator could easily collect information for several columns, stories or radio spots; while these gatherings of diverse sporting groups and individuals in one well-mannered group makes quote collecting easy.

At the July ISR meeting, hunting, trapping, outdoor recreation and fishing groups, as well as individual members, discussed the proper use of Lifetime License Funds for buying 70,000 acres of wildland at proposed Muscatatuck and Wabash Fish and Wildlife Areas, an Atterbury FWA/Putnam FWA land swap endorsement, possible ownership by DNR of a 2000-acre Newport Fish and Wildlife Area, possible promotion of a river and stream black bass minimum size-limit increase, and problems with confined fox and coyote dog training.

ISR officers met with many stakeholder groups and deer biologists. ISR also held 3 public meetings, in Columbus, Jasper and Warsaw, to get feedback on proposed rules. But the most helpful section of the meeting was a summary and explanation of Indiana's proposed deer rule changes by ISR president Gene Hopkins.

In a cordial manner, Hopkins led the group through a discussion and understanding of the background logic and political pressures behind proposed deer hunting changes. Various rule changes were also parsed and the thinking behind proposed changes was discussed.

The next ISR membership meeting is scheduled for late September at the Inn at Fort Harrison state park. We'll keep you updated on the new HOW website, which should be up and running by then.

A summary of the proposed Indiana deer hunting rule changes (compiled at the ISR meeting) is listed on the following page. Please read through these proposed changes.

I hope to see you down the trail again, or at an upcoming ISR meeting.

ISR's summary of proposed deer hunting rule changes:

General Requirements and Licenses

- * Adds the new nonresident youth deer license types.
- * Adds license requirements for the new special antlerless seasons.
- * Requires hunter orange for youth hunters during the youth special deer season and during the new antlerless only seasons; hunter orange is already required for all deer hunters during the firearms and muzzleloader seasons.
- * Requires at least 144 square inches of hunter orange material on a ground blind used while deer hunting during a season when a hunter is already required to wear hunter orange.
- * Requires the owner's name and address on ground blinds used on department properties.

Hunting Equipment

- * Allows a crossbow to be used by hunters who are at least 64 years old during the early archery season.
- * Allows a crossbow to be used during the deer firearms and muzzleloader seasons by hunters of any age.
- * Allows a hunter of any age to use a crossbow in an urban deer zone during the urban deer season.
- * Allows a rifle cartridge to have a maximum case length of 1.8 inches instead of 1.625 inches.

Seasons and Bag Limits

- * Allows youth hunters to take the number of antlerless deer allowed in each county during the special youth deer season (in addition to one antlered deer).
- * Extends the urban deer season through January 31 of the following year.
- * Requires hunters to take at least one antlerless deer prior to taking an antlered deer in the urban deer season.
- * Expands the urban deer zones in Lake and Porter counties to all of those counties.
- * Changes the deer firearms season to start on the first Saturday before Thanksgiving and continue for only 8 additional days.
- * Shortens the deer muzzleloader season to only 9 days.
- * Adds an antlerless deer only firearms season in October (2 days only) in counties with an antlerless quota of 4 or more. The hunter may take the number of antlerless deer in each county allowed under the bonus county quota.
- * Adds another antlerless deer-only firearms season from December 25 through January 1 of the following year. The hunter may take the number of antlerless deer in each county allowed under the bonus county quota.

Military Reserves and National Wildlife Refuges

- * Opens the firearms season on designated military reserves and national wildlife refuges on October 1 instead of November 1.
- * Adds the new nonresident youth deer hunting license types.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

(See page 20 for a list of new HOW Supporting Members)

Memorial to Deceased HOW Members

Those Who Have Gone Before Us:

Jack Alkire – President of HOW 1979
Bill Beeman – Executive Director
Ed Blann
Charlie Brown
Gary Carden
Jim “Moose” Carden – President 1982/83
George Carey
John Case
Bill Church – President of HOW 1972
Jack “Big Jake” Cooper
Mark Cottingham
Jerry Criss
Dick Forbes
Tom Glancy – President of HOW 1977
Dale Griffith
Fred Heckman
Jack Kerins
Mike Lyle – President of HOW 1981
Ralph “Cork” McHargue – President 1976
Bob Nesbit
Jack Parry
Harry Renfro
“Bayou” Bill Scifres – President of HOW
George Seketa
Al Spiers
Robert “Doc” Stunkard
Butch Tackett
Joe West

Past Presidents of HOW

“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1969
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1970
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1971
Bill Church	1972
Rick Bramwell	1973
Jack Ennis	1974
Phil Junker	1975
Ralph McHargue	1976
Tom Glancy	1977
Bob Rubin	1978
Jack Alkire	1979
Louie Stout	1980
Mike Lyle	1981
Jim “Moose” Carden	1982
Jim “Moose” Carden	1983
John Davis	1984
John Davis	1985
Ray Harper	1986
Ray Harper	1987
Ray Dickerson	1988
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1989
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1990
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1991
Jack Spaulding	1992
Jack Spaulding	1993
John Rawlings	1994
Phil Bloom	1995
Marty Jaranowski	1996
John Martino	1997
Mike Schoonveld	1998
Jack Spaulding	1999
Jack Spaulding	2000
Sharon Wiggins	2001
Phil Junker	2002
Larry Crecelius	2003
Bryan Poynter	2004
Phil Bloom	2005
Brian Smith	2006
Brian Smith	2007
Brent Wheat	2008
Bryan Poynter	2009

Calling All HOW Photographers!

Photo Contest Grand Prize Winners Can Take Their "Fish" Home with Them

Alexandria, Virginia – BoatU.S. Angler partners with Mount This Fish Company.

Wouldn't it be nice to keep that lunker around forever? Submit a photo of your best catch to the BoatU.S. Angler Catch of the Month Photo Contest and you could win \$50 and other prizes, plus be entered to win a realistic replica of your fish from Mount This Fish Company, which specializes in hand-painted fiberglass replicas.



The monthly photo contest, which starts in April and runs for seven months, offers two categories: saltwater fish and freshwater fish. Winners of these monthly contests can take home a \$50 BoatU.S. Visa gift card, BoatU.S. Angler logo items, a "gift bag" of fishing gear and a framed Catch of the Month winner's certificate to proudly hang on the wall. For complete details and how to enter, go to www.BoatUSAngler.com/contest.

In November, all of the 14 monthly winners will be automatically entered into the Grand Prize drawing to win the replica mount from Mount This Fish Company, the newest sponsor of the photo contest. Their full-size mount replicas are perfect to commemorate your special catch, while their "Half Sided Series" are great additions to decorate your home or office. All mounts are hand airbrushed and can be displayed indoors or out. To view the wide selection of full mounts, half mounts and 3D mounts, visit their website at www.mounthis.net.

BoatU.S. Angler is a membership program from the nation's largest association of recreational boaters that offers services and helps protect the interests of boat-owning anglers. Visit www.BoatUSAngler.com for more information.

Indiana State Parks/Reservoirs Photo Contest Runs Through End of 2010

Photographers who are 18 years of age or older may participate in the DNR Division of State Park and Reservoirs' photography contest, which runs through the end of 2010. For complete rules, see <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/5997.htm>.

Photos of plants, wildlife, scenic beauty, events, historic facilities and features, and individual or family outdoor recreation images taken at Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs in all seasons may be entered. Eligible locations from which photographs may be taken are listed at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2392.htm>.

A winning photograph will be announced each month during the first week of the following month. The winning photographer each month will be awarded a prize from Mother Nature's Mercantile. Winning photographs will appear in the DNR's photo galleries at www.dnr.IN.gov.

The monthly winners will be judged at the end of the contest, and the grand prize winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate from Indiana State Park Inns and a 2011 entrance pass for all state parks/reservoirs. Second-place and third-place winners will receive a one-year subscription to *Outdoor Indiana* magazine and a copy of the DVD "State Parks and Reservoirs: Treasures in Your Own Back Yard."

Media Contact: Ginger Murphy, DNR Division of State Parks and Reservoirs, (317) 232-4143.

HOW Awards-In-Craft Winner

(1st Place in the Writing - Conservation category)

“SILVERFINS AND LEMONADE”

By Mike Schoonveld

There's an old saying which goes something like: When life throws you a lemon, make some lemonade. It's another way of advising one to make the best of a bad situation or even to turn a negative into a positive.

Now that Asian carp are known to be in the Great Lakes watershed, we have been thrown a lemon. Can the situation become lemonade?

The state of Louisiana is already besieged with bighead and silver carp in the Mississippi and probably a dozen other lakes and waterways. They are there, competing with native fish, sucking the zooplankton out of the waters, jumping out of the water at powerboats and generally making a nuisance of themselves.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' solution? The "Silverfin Promotion" which will attempt to create a commercial and recreational market for the non-native bighead and silver carp. Commercial anglers will fish for anything they think they can sell. Recreational fishermen will fish for anything that's fun to catch or tastes good. The LDWF removed all restrictions on recreational harvest of the fish so anglers can catch 'em, spear 'em, net 'em, drive around in boats and hope they jump in – most anything short of dynamite. But are they tasty?

Lemons are foul tasting, lemonade is great. The perception among fish-eating people is that carp in general are foul tasting, bigheads and silver carp, included. So they hired a team of chefs headed up by Chef Philippe Parola, a popular New Orleans area TV "cookster" who has developed a line of gourmet products marketed nationally under the Philmin label. Chef Parola, along with Chef Cullen Lord of Flemmings Restaurant and Darryl Rivere of A la Carte Foods experimented with the fish to see if it was possible to make them palatable.

The result, it seems from the reports of tasters judging the results, is the Asian carp are

fabulous. Of course professional chefs are trained to make lemonade out of lemons as well as to make gourmet treats out of things and parts most of us shun in the kitchen.

I researched eating the common carp years ago (as a hungry college student looking for a change from my usual ramen noodles dinners.) I don't remember a foul flavor, but I can honestly say I've never had so many fish bones in my mouth at one time as when trying to eat those fish. Evidently, the silvers and bigheads share a similar skeletal system with their carp cousins.

After researching de-boning systems, Parola chose to use a steaming method, which makes it easier to remove the bones after the fish is cooked. Once the meat is separated from the bones, the report is the meat tastes somewhere between scallops and crabmeat. And, the fish is high in omega-3 fatty acids sure to please nutrition minded shoppers.

The second part of the plan is to rename the fish to make them sound more edible. Rocky mountain oysters sounds better than calf testicles and Parola and the Louisiana DWF people have decided "silverfin" sounds better than silver or bighead carp. Probably right.

Initially, silverfin cakes, gumbo and imitation crabmeat will be marketed in a local chain of supermarkets in Louisiana. Who knows if the products will take off?

Here in the Great Lakes, attempts were made to make some lemonade with other invasive species. Fricasseed lamprey was a flop. Alewives packed in mustard, oil or hot sauce didn't displace the sardines in the canned fish department of my supermarket and zebra mussel chowder turned out equally dismal.

Hopefully, by the time Asian carp proliferate up here, when one jumps into my boat, I'll think, "Dinner!"

Do You Send ‘Em Off Sober?

by Indiana Master Naturalist Sharon Wiggins

Over the years many folks have told me, “We’ve put out a hummingbird feeder, but so far we haven’t attracted any hummingbirds.” If there’s time I tell them about this story a wildlife rehabilitator from Virginia told us at a National Wildlife Federation annual meeting in Washington D.C. many years ago:

“Someone once brought us a weak, disabled hummingbird. I put it in with a dead branch I’d placed just below a sugar water feeder, all in an aquarium tank on a table by a sunny window. Soon the little bird began gaining strength by sidling up the branch and sipping the sugar water. For several days he continued to improve.

Then he began to deteriorate. He would struggle up the branch, sip the sugar water and then fall off. One morning I found him lying on the floor of the tank. I thought he had died, but when I picked him up I felt him tremble. It was then I realized none of us had changed the sugar water that had been warming in the sun for days. It had fermented! The poor little bird had been drunk!!!”

I’ve never forgotten the story. But I do recall returning to Indiana and checking our hummingbird feeders by sniffing the sugar water. When we noticed the local hummers were avoiding any remaining nectar, it had a faint smell of yeast and/or beer.

We now have so many hummingbirds in our wildlife-friendly backyard we have been witness to constant, competitive combat at all three feeders (that’s normal for hummingbirds). Still, they really do disturb the peace when I try to sit back and relax on the patio. They meet at the three feeders (room for fifteen hungry hummers at a time) and engage in prolonged, violent feeding frenzies. The bitty birds constantly dive-bomb, knock each other off the feeder perches and collide in mid-air. And we refill the feeders twice a day!



Male ruby-throated hummingbird. Photo by Sharon Wiggins.

Yesterday evening we added one more six-port feeder. Will room for twenty-one be enough? After a few hours of establishing a revised pecking order, our local hummers seem to be calming down and pigging out.

Remember: all of the ruby-throated hummingbirds up here in Indiana will need to be in great shape when they migrate south across the waters of the now infamous Gulf of Mexico to make it to Mexico or Panama.

Think about it: Will the blossoms in your yard be enough to send the little birds off with a full tank? You might want to hang out a sugar-water feeder or two in August.

TREES IN THE HOOSIER STATE

Comprehensive State Forestry Report Available

The first comprehensive assessment and strategy since the 1980s of all of Indiana's forests – private, public and urban – has been completed by the DNR Division of Forestry and is available for viewing at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/5436.htm>.

The strategy outlines many new forestry initiatives, such as developing a Forest Mitigation Bank, a hardwood timber check-off program, and best management practices for slowing the spread of forest invasive species.

Thousands of individuals and landowners and more than 300 agricultural, conservation, educational, environmental, government, natural resource and recreation organizations participated in the planning process.

Media contact for more information:
Chris Gonso
DNR Division of Forestry
(317) 691-7929



Healthy forests are important for both people and wildlife! Photo by Tom Berg.

Trees For Energy Conservation

The Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) in partnership with the Indiana DNR, Community and Urban Forestry Program (CUF) will award 600 maple trees as part of the NIPSCO Trees Mean Cool Communities grant program. The trees awarded must be planted around public buildings to demonstrate energy conservation.

"The intent of this project is to decrease energy consumption by strategically selecting sites where the trees will provide shade, decrease wind speed, and let winter sunlight in," said Pam Louks, CUF coordinator and the project leader for the grant.

The trees provided by NIPSCO must be planted on public property, and the property where the planting will take place must receive its electric service from NIPSCO. Schools, libraries, cities, towns, and local non-profits are invited to apply for the trees by filling out a grant application.

"Research has demonstrated that planting three deciduous trees on the south and west sides of a building can decrease energy consumption and lower energy bills by about 6.5 percent," said Jason Lietz, NIPSCO forestry supervisor.

NIPSCO is Indiana's second largest electric provider and is recognized as a Tree Line USA. This project will help the utility meet the new requirements for Tree Line USA, a utility recognition program sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation and managed by the CUF Program for Indiana.

For more information on the grant requirements and to receive an application, contact the CUF office at (317) 591-1170 or Pam Louks, Indiana Urban Forestry coordinator, (same phone), plouks@dnr.IN.gov.

Letter To The Editor:

Why Buy Hunting and Fishing Licenses?

From: Dean Farr, Indianapolis, IN (dean.farr@sbcglobal.net)

As I write this, I think of the two guarantees in life: death and taxes. Sometimes I think we sportspersons liken our licenses to taxes, when in reality they help pay for our outdoor adventures. I really think of these licenses as user fees for my benefit.

A few years ago, I remember having a discussion with Dick Mercier of Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable. The conversation went something like this: Dick commented that most hunters and fishermen just wanted to go the woods or lake and hunt or fish. They did not want to get involved, be bothered, and many felt that licenses were not necessary. The long and short of it, they did not like having to pay to hunt or fish. Unfortunately, the reality today is that there is "no free lunch" when it comes to hunting or fishing.

What do hunting and fishing licenses pay for? Many things, from the acquisition and maintenance of wildlife management areas, to private lands programs, to fish hatcheries and stocking programs, to access points on lakes and streams. Over the years, game management has brought back and maintained game species so today we can enjoy our outdoor pursuits. Even private landowners benefit from many of these game management programs. So even if you are fortunate enough to hunt private lands, you too benefit.

Where does all this money come from? Our license fees alone are not enough. What really helps are the federal matching programs like Dingell/Johnson and Pittman/Robertson, which can provide up to a 3:1 match. Meaning for every license dollar we invest (pay), Uncle Sam matches with three federal tax dollars collected from manufacturers of sporting equipment. We pay it, so we should take advantage and bring this money back home to invest in our hunting and fishing.

I am one of those disabled veterans entitled to a low cost fishing and small game license. However, I chose to buy a comprehensive lifetime hunting and fishing license (for the record, I did this right after the last price increase while the program still existed). To me, it's a well-paid investment which allows me to hunt and fish. I remind my fellow veterans we need to invest in hunting and fishing so that the next generation of veterans has the same opportunity we have today. I remind older seniors, as well (born before April, 1943) that to enjoy fishing with their grandkids, they need to invest by purchasing a voluntary "senior fishing license". In 2010, that \$3 voluntary senior license will bring \$11 in federal apportionment to Indiana as an investment in ours and our children's fishing programs.

Why did I buy a hunting and fishing license? Two reasons: one for my personal benefit and enjoyment of the out-of-doors, second and more importantly an investment for my son and his generation. I hope to pass the hunting and fishing legacy on to the next generation as my father and grandfathers did for me.

Finally, I want to commend the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. They do a great job in managing our license fees. They use prudent financial practices to get the "most bang for the buck." They are also very sensitive to market factors and the cost to us sportsmen. We need to support IDNR in their efforts.

Fishing For Miniature Trophies In The Great Smoky Mountains

by Tom Berg

Do you remember the movie “Little Big Man” starring Dustin Hoffman? It portrayed the life story of a diminutive white man who was taken in by the Cheyenne Indians as a child after his family was slain by a band of Pawnee. He was given the name “Little Big Man” because he was short in stature, but big in heart. I’ve always loved that movie.



In late-July, I made a research trip to the Knoxville, TN area and I encountered some “Little Big Man” trout inside Great Smoky Mountain National Park. The Little Pigeon River is one of many waters that flow through the park, and it is home to an excellent population of trout that reminds me of “Little Big Man”. These trout may not be large, but they more than make up for their lack of size by their tremendous fighting ability, their beautiful colors and their extreme wariness.



To help me with my trip, I contacted local flyfishing expert Clay Aalders from Smoky Mountain Gillies guide service. Clay is the owner and operator of SMG, and he knows these waters extremely well.

After finalizing our plans, we met on the appointed morning and drove into the park. We stopped at one of the many scenic pull-offs along the road that straddles the river, and headed through the underbrush to the rocky river-bottom below. The rushing sound of the water as it flowed over and around the countless boulders and rocks quickly transported us to peaceful and tranquil place, far away from the sounds of cars and traffic and people. Small pools lay just downstream of many of the boulder piles, and these pools were our targets. Some were only a few feet across while others were twice that size. Almost all of them held wild, wary trout that were waiting for breakfast!

Clay showed me the proper way to drift a nymph and float a dry fly through these tiny pools, and within a minute or two he caught the first fish. It was a spunky rainbow trout with a deep red band extending from its gill-plate to its tail. It was beautiful! Clay quickly released it and I tried my luck in the same pool. On the second drift, another trout came to the surface and smacked my fly. I set the hook, and moments later had my first Smoky Mountain rainbow splashing around at the edge of the pool near my feet. He wasn't



the largest trout I had ever caught, but he certainly was spirited! He didn't want to give up, even after he was in the net! Clay carefully unhooked him and we snapped a quick photo before releasing him.

After a few more drifts without a strike, Clay said any other fish present in that pool were unlikely to bite due to the disturbances we had caused, so we moved upstream to the next pool. It was only about ten feet away, so it was a short walk! To keep from spooking any fish, we quietly crept over to it.

A huge boulder lay between me and the pool, so I used it to hide behind as I cast the fly to the head of the pool where the water crashed noisily over the rocks. As soon as it hit the water, a fish absolutely slammed it! I set the hook and fought a feisty rainbow over to the far edge of the pool where Clay netted him. This fish was larger than the others – he probably stretched to a solid 10 inches or so. The heavy black spotting along his back and tail and the colorful markings on his side looked spectacular in the radiant morning sunlight. Another photo and he was released, too.

Clay told me to flip the fly up along the far edge of the pool along the opposite bank since the water looked slightly deeper there, and on the first cast to that spot a fish near the bottom took my dropper nymph. I felt the strike and set the hook, and soon landed another rainbow. The ultralight rod and light line really made a difference when fighting these fish; every head-shake and each run made it feel like I was battling a monster. What fun!

Surprisingly, I caught 4 or 5 fish from this pool before they got lockjaw. But it didn't matter. There were dozens of pools ahead of us, and our time limit wouldn't allow us to reach even half of them. Each pool that we did explore yielded at least one fish that rose to the fly. Sometimes I hooked the fish and others I missed. Each strike was a little different than the last and all were exciting. I can see why Clay loves to fish this area with a flyrod!



By quitting time, I had caught at least two dozen trout, and Clay had caught quite a few, too. He spent most of his time pointing me in the right direction and helping me land fish, but he got a few chances to wet a line. That was fine with me, because after a while I needed a break and wanted to snap a few photos of him fishing this beautiful trout stream.

This is one fishing trip I won't soon forget. The fishing was great, the scenery was fantastic and the company provided by Clay Aalders was excellent. I also learned one thing for certain about Great Smoky Mountain trout: they are definitely Small but Mighty!

Trip planning info: If you are looking for a guide to help put you on the local trout, contact Clay Aalders at 865-577-4289 or send him an email at clay@smokymountaingillies.com. You may also check out his website at www.mountaingillies.com. For more information on the local area, contact Robb Wells at the Knoxville Tourism and Sports Corporation (see page 16 for additional details).

HOW Member News

Alan Garbers and Family Visits Canada and Minnesota

“The last week of June my family and I went to Sioux Narrows, Ontario and stayed at the White Pine Lodge for a week (I traded some log furniture I made for the week’s stay),” said Alan Garbers. “We had a blast fishing every day. While there we saw many deer, a moose, two bears, and lots of bald eagles. The cold fronts made fishing a little tough and one day the high was only 61 degrees! We still caught plenty of pike.”



On the way to Canada, Alan reported that they stopped at a bear sanctuary just west of Orr, Minnesota. There they saw about thirty wild black bears ranging in size from cubs to 500-pound boars. “One of my favorite stops on any trip north is the Vince Shute Bear Sanctuary (www.americanbear.org),” he said. “This is one of the few places in the U.S. where one can watch wild bears up close and personal, and after seeing the cubs, it’s real personal. Run by volunteers, the sanctuary continues on the work of logger Vince Shute, a man who grew weary of killing bears that only wanted to eat his lumber camp cooking.”

“While logging no longer takes place, the camp still feeds the bears and allows anyone to study and photograph wild bears from the safety of an elevated platform. Visitors can literally be face to face with new cubs, yearlings, or fully grown boars. Make no mistake, these bears are wild and free to come and go as they like; we humans are the critters in captivity, safe behind bars.”



Garbers Chases Indiana Muskies

“On my ever growing bucket list is catching a nice muskie,” said Garbers. “While I have fished for muskie before, I have never caught one. After repeated attempts I decided to seek the professional help of muskie guide Chris Walker (www.indianafishingadventures.com).”

“I recently met Chris at the launch ramp of Lake Webster and he set about converting me to a muskie hunter. While fishing was tough, Chris put me on the fish and I succeeded in hooking three and boating two (the largest was 39”). Not bad for a fish of ten thousand casts. Chris is very professional and he has an easy, friendly manner that makes fishing fun. I highly recommend visiting some of the best muskie water in the Midwest (right here in Indiana), and I couldn’t think of a better guide to explore it with than Chris Walker.”

Membership Changes and New Email Addresses

The following HOW individual members have reported that they have new email addresses. Please make a note of them:

Gene Clifford: hoosierhunter@frontier.com

Ray Dickerson: thegadabout@frontier.com

Evie Kirkwood: dragonflyejk@frontier.com

If your email address or other contact information changes, please notify HOW Executive Director Tom Berg at thomas.berg@comcast.net or by mail at 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311 as soon as possible. You won't receive important HOW updates if we don't have your current contact info!

Dean Shadley Likes Smallmouth 'On The Fly'

HOW President John Maxwell and Dean Shadley recently spent some time fishing together on the scenic Flatrock River in Rush County.



“A little Sunday wading trip down HOW member Jack Spaulding's home waters of the Flatrock River near Moscow, IN resulted in lots of fun and twelve smallmouth bass,” said Maxwell. “One was a real dandy - see photo above.”



Younger Berg Heads For College and Nabs Trapper's Scholarship

Tom Berg's son Mark recently graduated from Lake Central High School in Lake County with academic honors. He will be studying computer engineering at Purdue University this fall, and now he will be getting a little help with his tuition bill.

In June, Mark was selected as one of two winners of the annual Indiana State Trappers Association ISTA Scholarship. Besides submitting a copy of his high school transcripts which showed his excellent grades, Mark wrote a personal insight essay explaining his goals and plans for the future. He also submitted recommendation letters from his former teachers.

Mark has enjoyed helping his Dad on their trapline over the years. Who knew that trapping possums could lead to a college scholarship?



Rich Creason and Wife Susan Hunt Big Game of the Jurassic Kind!

“I have hunted deer, elk, moose, pronghorn, bear, wild boar – and I plan on chasing alligator, bison, and caribou before I get too old,” said Rich Creason from Anderson. “But Susie and I recently went on my biggest game hunt ever. While I will never be able to mount the trophy on my wall, I know I am one of very few people in the world who have ever successfully hunted this huge creature.”

“We went with the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis to Faith, South Dakota (that’s about 100 miles from nowhere, north of Wall, SD in the Badlands), to hunt dinosaur fossils. The cost was \$125 per day for museum members (one of the cheaper hunts I’ve been on). We were unable to go last year, but signed up for the first day of the dig this year. July 2nd was our day. We found assorted small bone and teeth fragments on top of the ground and then dug a caudal vertebra (the tail end) from a duckbill dinosaur (*Edmontosaurus annectens*) which had roamed this area about 65 million years ago. We also found a 3” X 6” piece of rib and uncovered the end of two more large bones. Four days of digging later, they turned out to be a nearly three foot long pelvic bone, and a four foot fibula (lower leg bone). They will be taken back to the museum in Indianapolis where we can visit them!”



Here is the fossilized piece of rib bone found by Susan Creason while digging for dinosaur bones in South Dakota. It was an exciting find!



Rich and Susan Creason stand on a bluff above their dino dig site in the Badlands of South Dakota.

“We spent one day there this year, but we are planning on returning next year for five days. Great fun if you like that kind of thing!”

If this sounds like an exciting way to spend a day, contact the Indy Children’s Museum at 317-334-3322, or go online to their website www.childrensmuseum.org. You can get info on Dino Digs, memberships, events, exhibits, or anything else you need to know.



Great Smoky Mountains Offers Hiking, Rock Climbing and Photo Opportunities for HOW Members

by Tom Berg

Anyone who likes exploring the country to find interesting places for enjoying the outdoors should consider making a trip to Knoxville and the Great Smoky Mountains in nearby Tennessee. HOW members from southern Indiana can drive to Knoxville in 4-5 hours, while those in the northern parts of the state can be there in 8-9 hours. Knoxville makes a great base camp for exploring this area.



Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a fantastic place for doing some serious hiking. Visitors can discover beautiful mountain forests, flowing streams and stunning waterfalls. Birds and butterflies dart across the trails frequently and make great photo subjects if you are quick with your camera. Hiking trails within the park cover approximately 800 miles, so you can hike for weeks without seeing everything. Rock climbing is a fun diversion, especially among the boulders in the many streambeds that you will encounter. The rocky-bottomed Little Pigeon River near the park headquarters is a popular place for visitors to do some climbing and get their feet wet.

If hiking is not your passion, then check out pages 11-12 for info on fishing the Great Smoky Mountains for some wily small-stream trout. It is definitely worthwhile.

There are lots of other things to do in and around Knoxville, too.

A small sampling includes fishing on the Tennessee River, visiting the unique Ijams Nature Center, plenty of museums and local parks, historic buildings, fine dining, and lots of nearby state parks.



HOW members interested in visiting Knoxville and the surrounding area should contact Robb Wells at the Knoxville Tourism and Sports Corporation (865-523-7263 or rwells@knoxville.org) for more information. You may also check out their website at www.knoxville.org.

Unusual Nature Photos From The Hoosier Outdoors

Possum's Nose And Whiskers Are Very Sensitive



If you remember back to the Jan-Feb 2010 issue of The Blade, the photo shown above was printed along with the question “What is it?” Well, the hectic schedule of preparing for the annual conference and printing the Pre-Conference and Post-Conference newsletters made the editor forget to print an answer! So here it is:

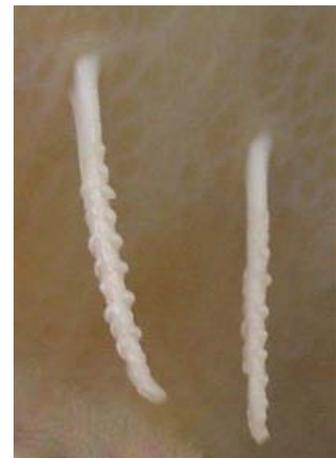
The photo shows the nose of a common opossum, or possum. Possums have a very sensitive sense of smell and can detect the scent of food over great distances.

Quite a few HOW members got the right answer this time, probably because possums are often seen wandering through our yards at dusk or at night (or seen dead on the side of the road, unfortunately). Since that was an easy question, the next one will be harder. See below.

Berg Poses Another “What Is It?” Question

Here’s another Nature Photo mystery. The photo shown at right is a close-up of part of an unusual creature that lives right here in Indiana.

Do you know what it is? Take a guess! If you think you know, send the answer to me via email at thomas.berg@comcast.net and I’ll let you know if you’re right. This photo will probably be a lot harder to identify than the last one, but we’ll see! For everyone who doesn’t know, you’ll just have to wait until the next issue of The Blade to find out!



Here’s a hint: These strange “things” are located on the outside of the creature’s body.

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 company contact for more information.

DeLorme Combines Hand-Held GPS and Texting Via Satellite

Yarmouth, ME: DeLorme, the innovation leader in mapping and GPS technologies, recently demonstrated pre-release models of its eagerly-awaited Earthmate PN-60w with SPOT Satellite Communicator at the 2010 Teva Mountain Games in Vail, CO.

The Earthmate PN-60w is the world's first handheld GPS that enables Type & Send text messaging via satellite. A special interface on the PN-60w connects it wirelessly with the SPOT Satellite Communicator, which was designed exclusively for DeLorme. Messages are created on the PN-60w's internal keyboard, then relayed via satellite for delivery using established SPOT technology.



Because messages are conveyed via satellite, and are not dependent on cellular phone coverage, the PN-60w with SPOT Satellite Communicator keeps users reliably connected even in remote locations around the world. Both devices are designed to be ruggedized and waterproof and thus better suited than most cell phones for the rigors of outdoor use.

"We're excited to introduce the Earthmate PN-60w with SPOT Satellite Communicator to serious outdoors enthusiasts at the Teva Mountain Games," said DeLorme Product Manager Chip Noble. "The ability to navigate confidently in remote locations and stay connected with customized satellite messaging means peace of mind wherever you go."

Users can type and send text messages to individual email addresses, cell phones, buddy lists, and social networking sites like Twitter, Facebook, Fire Eagle, SpotAdventures.com, or Geocaching.com. In case of emergency, SOS messages can be sent with the user's GPS coordinates embedded. In addition, family and friends can track a user's progress via Google's free online maps. Subscriptions are required for some services.

Media Contact: Charlie Conley, (207) 846-7022, charlie.conley@delorme.com

(Supporting Member News continued on next page)

Taylor Brands LLC Introduces Sharpening Systems For Sportsmen

Kingsport, TN: Imperial Schrade (a division of Taylor Brands LLC) has recently released the Dura-Edge and Advant-Edge Sharpening systems.

Both kits feature different grits of sharpening stones which will allow knife users, enthusiasts and sportsmen to put a razor edge on all of their various knives. With our patented honing guides you can choose what angle that you wish to sharpen your knives with, and then have guaranteed repeatability during the sharpening process.



Both sharpening kits come in a durable pocketed canvas tote designed for easy convenient roll up and storage. The Dura-Edge can be operated either hand-held or it may be mounted on a bench. The Advant-Edge can also be operated hand-held or by simply placing it on any convenient flat surface.

Company President Morgan Taylor says “Our goal on these projects was to create an all-in-one, easy to use, functional sharpening set. We have accomplished this with the Dura-Edge and Advant-Edge Sharpening systems.”

For more information, please visit www.taylorbrandsllc.com or contact Joe Byrd at 423-747-4306. You may also send an email to pr@taylorbrandsllc.com.

Imperial Schrade



StrikeMaster Makes Storage Of Creepy Crawlers So Easy!

Big Lake, MN: Tired of carrying waxworms, maggots, and other creepy crawlers in plastic cups with ill-fitting, so-called ‘snap on’ lids? You know the ones – the same messy containers you squirt single servings of ketchup in at fast food joints! It’s been like that for years; smashed containers and spilled bait in every pocket, until the problem solvers at StrikeMaster developed the Bait Puck: a crushproof, cylindrical, fist-sized grub holder. To this day, nothing takes better care of your bait on the lake.



Now StrikeMaster has introduced the Bait Buck Plus. Designed intuitively, the Bait Puck Plus features a tough plastic screen halfway down the vertical column that isolates the bait from the bedding. Give the container a shake, open the lid, and watch as the lively bait materializes while the bedding falls. Turn the Bait Puck Plus over and do it again from the other side. It has two lids, doubling your access to fresh bait without flicking sawdust – and precious grubs – all over the place. It’s fantastic!

For more information, please visit www.strikemaster.com or call (763) 263-8999. You may also send an email to Noel or Leslie Vick at Traditions Media (noel@traditionsmedia.com, leslie@traditionsmedia.com).

HOW's Supporting Member Websites

3M Scientific Anglers - www.scientificanglers.com
Acli-Mate Mountain Sports Drink - www.acli-mate.com
Alpen Optics - www.alpenoutdoor.com
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Bass Pro Shops - www.basspro.com
Battenfeld Technologies - www.battenfeldtechnologies.com
Bill Lewis Lures - www.Rat-L-Trap.com
Birchwood Casey - www.birchwoodcasey.com
Blackpowder Products, Inc. - www.bpiguns.com
Brunton - www.brunton.com
Buck Knives - www.buckknives.com
Bundy Ducks - www.bundyducks.com
Cabela's, Inc. - www.cabelas.com
Camp Chef - www.campchef.com
Clam Corporation - www.clamcorp.com
Coleman Company - www.coleman.com
Columbia Sportswear - www.columbia.com
Creative Outdoor Products - www.hunterdan.com
Crimson Trace - www.crimsontrace.com
Crosman Corporation - www.crosman.com
CTI Industries - www.zipvac.com
Danner Boots - www.danner.com
DeLorme, Inc. - www.delorme.com
Eagle Claw - www.eagleclaw.com
Environ-Metal, Inc. - www.hevishot.com
Federal Premium Ammunition - www.federalpremium.com
Flambeau Products Corp. - www.flambeauoutdoors.com
Flatrock Hunting Preserve - www.flatrockhunting.com
Flying Fisherman - www.flyingfisherman.com
Frabill - www.frabill.com
Freedom Group Companies - www.freedom-group.com
G.Loomis - www.gloomis.com
Gerber Legendary Blades - www.gerbergear.com
Godfrey Marine - www.nauticglobalgroup.com
Hart Productions - www.hartproductions.com
Hoosier Trapper Supply - www.hoosiertrappersupply.com
Hoppe's - www.hoppes.com
HT Enterprises - www.icefish.com
Hunt's Photo & Video - www.huntsphotoandvideo.com
Hunter's Specialties - www.hunterspec.com
Indiana Conservation Officer Magazine - www.icoo.com
Indiana Outdoor News - www.indianaoutdoornews.net
Johnson Outdoors, Inc. - www.johnsonoutdoors.com
Kwikee Kwitter Co. - www.kwikeekwitter.com
L&S Bait Co. - www.mirrolure.com
LaCrosse Footwear - www.lacrossefootwear.com
Lamiglas - www.lamiglas.com
Leupold - www.leupold.com
Lightfield Ammunition - www.lightfieldslugs.com
Lodge Manufacturing - www.lodgemfg.com
Mathews - www.mathewsinc.com
Midway USA - www.midwayusa.com
Mossy Oak - www.mossyoak.com
Muzzy Products Corp. - www.muzzy.com
MyTopo - www.mytopo.com
Off Shore Tackle Co. - www.offshoretackle.com
Ono's Trading Co. - www.onostradingcompany.com
Optronics, Inc. - www.optronicsinc.com
Orange County CVB - www.historicsouthernindiana.com
Otis Technology - www.otisgun.com
Outdoor Promotions - www.crappieusa.com
Plano Molding Company - www.planomolding.com
Poor Boy's Baits/Lurecraft - www.lurecraft.com
Pradco Fishing - www.lurenet.com
Primos Hunting Calls - www.primos.com
Proline Fishing, Inc. - www.prolinefishing.com
Pure Fishing - www.purefishing.com
Quaker Boy, Inc. - www.quakerboygamecalls.com
Ranger Boat Company - www.rangerboats.com
Reef Runner Lures - www.reefrunner.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
Rocky Brands - www.rockyboots.com
Savage Arms - www.savagearms.com
Sebile Lures - www.sebileusa.com
SHE Outdoor Apparel - www.shesafari.com
Shimano American Corp. - www.shimano.com
Snosuit - www.snosuit.com
South Shore CVA - www.southshorecva.com
Star Brite - www.starbrite.com
Strikemaster Corporation - www.strikemaster.com
Taylor Brands - www.taylorbrandsllc.com
ThermaCELL - www.thermacell.com
Tri-Tronics, Inc. - www.tritronics.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - www.ttblakemore.com
Vexilar, Inc. - www.vexilar.com
Vortex Optics - www.vortexoptics.com
W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery - www.wrcase.com
WaveSpin Reels - www.wavespinreel.com
West Marine - www.westmarine.com
White Flyer Targets - www.whiteflyer.com
Wildlife Research Center - www.wildlife.com

HOW members are encouraged to contact our supporting members' websites for general information 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	_____ 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: _____

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 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 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, 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; 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.

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 hunting, fishing, ecology, or in preserving the environment in general.

Calendar of Events

- POMA 2010 Annual Conference:** August 11-14, 2010
(www.professionalooutdoormedia.org)
LaPorte, IN
- AGLOW 2010 Annual Conference:** September 12-16, 2010
(www.aglow.info)
Ashland, WI
- Cincinnati Travel, Sports & Boat Show:** January 14-16 & 19-23, 2011
(www.hartproductions.com)
Cincinnati, OH
- Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show:** February 18-27, 2011
(www.renfroproductions.com)
Indianapolis, IN
- AGLOW 2011 Spring Cast & Blast Event:** April 19-21, 2011
(www.aglow.info)
Details and location to follow.
- NRA 2011 Annual Meeting:** April 29-May 1, 2011
(www.nra.org)
Pittsburgh, PA
- HOW 2011 Annual Conference:** May 13-15, 2011
Details and location to follow.

HOW members may submit upcoming events, along with dates, locations and other details to the newsletter editor at: thomas.berg@comcast.net for possible inclusion in future issues of The Blade.