

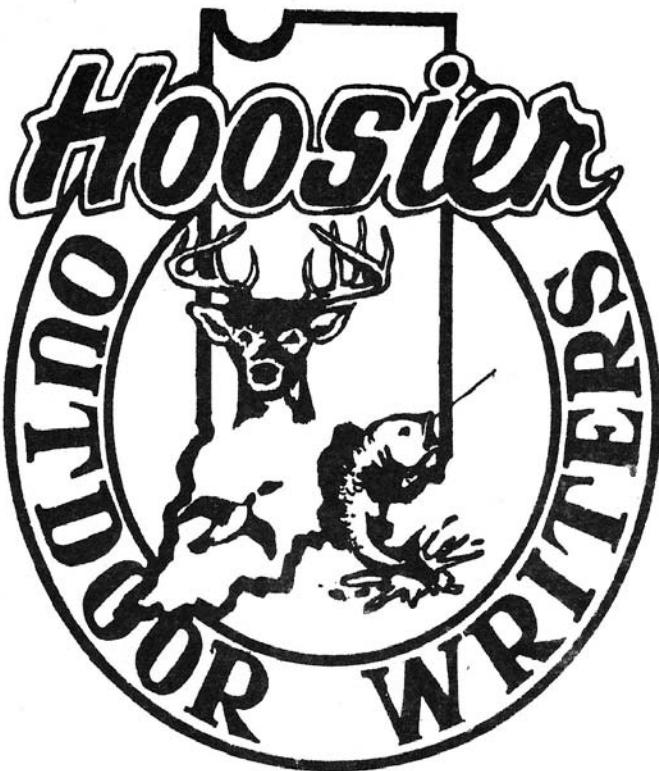
The Blade

January - February 2011

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Hot On The Bunny Trail", 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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2012

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On the cover: HOW member Gene Clifford and his beagle Zeke check out a local briar patch while rabbit hunting in Starke County. Photo by Tom Berg.



President's Message

by John Maxwell

Proposed: First Annual Bayou Bill Stewardship Prize

Hey HOW, how about creating an annual HOW natural resource stewardship prize using a small portion of the funds raised through the annual HOW raffle?

Last year, HOW donated \$100 to the Indiana Wildlife Federation in Bill Scifres' name. Bill was the founding president of HOW, a long-time outdoor mentor to many of our members, and a revered Hoosier writer and conservationist. Bill died in late 2009.

During the 2011 HOW Board of Directors Meeting this spring, I plan to introduce a motion to make this award an annual prize.

We could begin small, perhaps committing \$100-200. Maybe a HOW director knows of an Eagle Scout who needs to purchase some lumber or nails for a hiking trail project. Or perhaps a small conservation club sponsoring a kids' fishing day needs to purchase bait, tackle, cooking oil and corn meal in order to teach children how to catch, clean and cook fish. Lots of small ideas can be good ideas.

HOW members not on the HOW board could advance ideas to their regional director, who could represent the member at the board meeting. Prize requirements would include the nominator write a brief report at the end of the year on the completed prize project for publication in the newsletter. Perhaps even better, the nominator and fellow HOW members could promote the Scifres Prize projects in each member's usual communications media.

The board motion could also include a stipulation that our HOW executive director maintain a list of Bayou Bill Stewardship Prize recipients. The list would be updated and published once every year in The Blade, as well as read into the minutes of the annual HOW meeting.

Think of some ideas. I've got one: Seventy-five dollars sponsors a live bald eagle, hawk or owl visit to a grade school by the Hardy Lake Raptor Rehab Center. I've been to several of these presentations, and the kids pay attention when big, live raptors show up. The Hardy Lake educators are good people who have built a wonderful birds-of-prey education and rehab center on a shoe-string budget. You can see some of their work at: www.friendsofhardylake.com.

We can talk about the ideas, and perhaps vote on a winner or two winners or three winners at the spring annual conference held at Turkey Run State Park in scenic Parke County this April.

Don't forget to bring your hiking boots and camera to the meeting. Turkey Run State Park is gorgeous in April.

Hope to see you, and Bayou Bill, down the trail again sometime.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

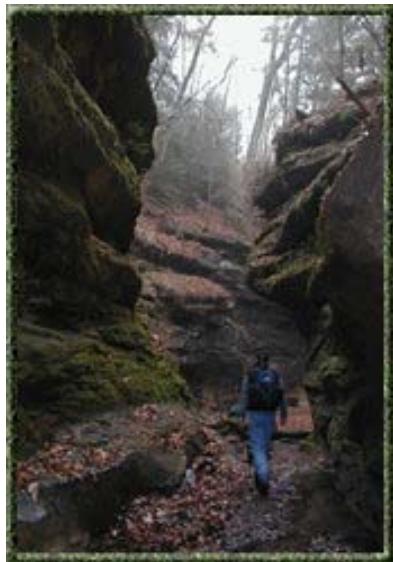
Memorial to Deceased HOW Members

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
John Maxwell	2010



(Photos courtesy of Eric Stallsmith)

HOW Conference Attendees May Experience “The Finer Side of Indiana”

by Don Bickel

As the HOW member who lives the closest to this year's conference site, I would encourage all members to consider attending the HOW Annual Meeting at Turkey Run State Park on April 15, 16 & 17. In West Central Indiana, this park is a special place – as are the many sites, sights, and attractions the area has to offer.

First and foremost, are Parke County's covered bridges. Several of these historical structures are within a short drive of the park, and the Narrows Bridge can be accessed by trail through the park. Maps are available at Turkey Run Inn which will direct you to all the covered bridges in Parke County.

With Parke County's ever-expanding Amish community, the possibility of a photo opportunity featuring a covered bridge and an Amish buggy is quite possible. Within a few miles of the park, on the Marshall to Rockville road, are Amish farms and several Amish stores, featuring house wares, yard goods, footwear, bulk foods, Amish cheese, and notions. What is a notion? Go to an Amish store and ask; maybe then you'll have a notion to buy.

Approximately 8 miles from Turkey Run State Park is the Parke County seat, Rockville. Rockville is the central site of the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival, which will run from October 14 to 23, 2011. Throughout the county at Festival time, villages such as Mansfield, Bridgeton, Montezuma and others provide food, festival shopping and people-watching.

Just east of Rockville on U.S. 36 is the reconstructed mid-1800's village of Billie Creek. It is also the site of several re-located covered bridges. While not in operation during the HOW conference, there are numerous maple syrup camps in Parke County. Mid-February to early March is syruping time, and the Parke County Maple Syrup Festival is the last weekend in February and the first weekend in March.

Don't overlook the fishing possibilities, either: Cecil M. Harden reservoir (Raccoon Lake) is known for its striped bass, white bass and largemouth bass, as well as the springtime run of white bass in Raccoon Creek. Rockville Lake represents the quiet side of fishing, where boats may use electric trolling motors only. It also offers camping and picnicking, as well as excellent fishing for bluegill, crappie and channel catfish. Lake Waveland on the Parke County border offers great panfishing, along with first-rate fishing for largemouth bass and channel catfish.

Sugar Creek and its resident smallmouth bass will definitely be on the conference schedule. This creek has been known as a topnotch canoeing stream and is now recognized as one of the best smallmouth streams in the Midwest. Sugar Creek flows through Turkey Run State Park and its upstream neighbor, Shades State Park.



Whether you can take in only one day or all three days of the HOW conference, you'll find Parke County is a place where you will want to plan a return visit.



Meet HOW Conference Keynote Speaker Tim Holschlag

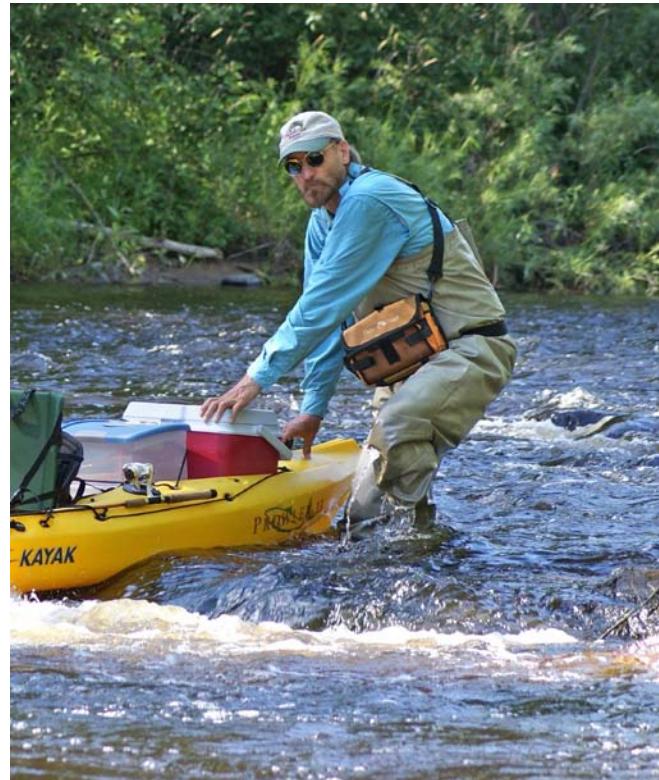


The HOW Conference Planning Committee is very pleased to bring Tim Holschlag to the 2011 HOW Conference as our keynote speaker. Please take a moment to learn more about Tim:

Iowa born, Midwest-based Tim Holschlag has had a 50 year passion for smallmouth bass and the waters they reside in. During this time he has fished over 300 smallmouth streams across North America, and recently five more in South Africa. He has written three books and hundreds of magazine articles focusing on the species. His smallmouth world has also included two decades of river guiding, countless indoor seminars, dozens of on-the-water schools and his own line of smallmouth flies and tackle.

Holschlag's outdoor writing career hasn't been angling only. For a decade he was a field editor for the Boundary Waters Journal magazine and has spent over 280 days camping and canoeing the famed Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Holschlag has also been the Midwest editor for Hooked on the Outdoors magazine and covered mountain biking, kayaking, and backpacking in destinations as varied as the Indiana Dunes and the Dakota Badlands.

A long time conservationist, Tim was the 1988 founder and first president of the Smallmouth Alliance organization. Additionally, he has received both the Federation of Fly Fishers warmwater conservation award and the prestigious 2009 Thomas F. Waters award for smallmouth conservation.



Full time in the outdoor field for 21 years, Tim Holschlag lives along the upper Mississippi in Minneapolis with his wife Lyn. Their team efforts include book publishing, video production and maintaining several smallmouth-focused websites.

In his travels, Tim has fished smallmouth waters as remote as desert rivers in South Africa, and also dozens of much closer to home streams, including Indiana's Eel, White, Tippecanoe, Mississinewa, St Joe and Big Pine. His life-long interest in fisheries biology leads him to keep pet smallmouth and to regard state and provincial fisheries studies as choice bedtime reading.

Learn more about Tim and his obsession for smallmouth bass at www.smallmouthangler.com and www.smallmouthflyangler.com.

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Annual Conference Registration



Turkey Run Inn at Turkey Run State Park, Parke County – April 15-17, 2011

This registration form is for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 16th (8:00am – 4:30pm)

Information to appear on badge:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Contact information:

Mailing Address: _____

City or Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Are you a first-time HOW conference attendee? _____

Conference Registration Fee per person:

HOW Members (and spouses): \$25.00 each (\$25 X number attending) = _____

Non-HOW Members: \$30.00 each (\$30 X number attending) = _____

Conference fee includes continental breakfast and buffet lunch on April 16th.

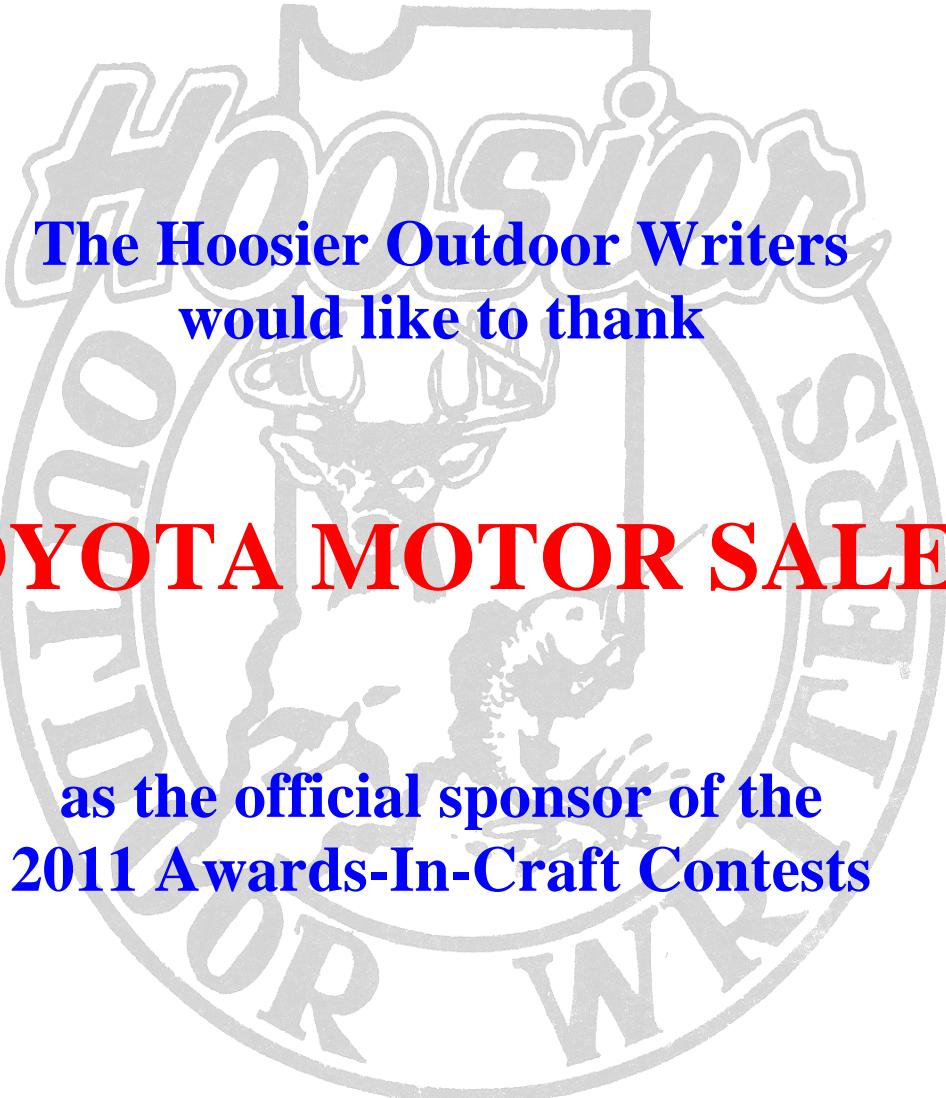
Please print this application and mail it along with your check for each person attending (make checks payable to “Hoosier Outdoor Writers”) to:

**Tom Berg
HOW Conference
2142 Nondorf Street
Dyer, IN 46311-1829**

Registration forms and payment must be received by April 1st at the LATEST.

Questions? Email all conference questions to Tom Berg: thomas.berg@comcast.net

The 2011 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest



**The Hoosier Outdoor Writers
would like to thank**

TOYOTA MOTOR SALES

**as the official sponsor of the
2011 Awards-In-Craft Contests**



The 2011 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

HOW CRAFTS AWARD CONTEST RULES

The contest year will be for material published or aired from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010. All submissions, including photography, must have been printed, aired, published or electronically posted during the contest year.

The author, photographer or broadcaster must be an Active or Associate member of HOW.

The author, photographer or broadcaster must have been paid a standard rate for any work entered in the contest. Photos or articles published on a private Website or a not-for-hire Website will not be accepted. Photos/articles that are published, or radio/TV programs that are broadcast in trade for advertising or other non-monetary remuneration or for gratuitous fees (such as \$1) are not permitted.

At this time, blogs will not be accepted as an article. Photo essays (where the only writing is in the captions) will also not be accepted as an article. These types of entries will be disqualified.

This year, we have changed the contest rules to allow electronic submissions only. We will no longer accept paper entries. This will result in much less work for entrants, contest coordinators and judges. It will also conserve valuable natural resources, which is something we can all be proud of. Entries must be submitted via email or filed on CD/DVD and mailed. The only exception is the broadcast division, where tapes are also allowed. See the rules below for additional details.

RULES FOR SUBMISSION

- 1) Contest entries must be in an electronic form. Entries must be emailed (or postmarked if mailing a CD or DVD) no later than February 28, 2011. Entries emailed or postmarked after that date will be disqualified. Send all entries to the proper contest coordinator.
- 2) An official HOW contest entry form must accompany each entry. The entry form must also be sent electronically (after typing the entry details into the form).
- 3) Send no material that needs to be returned. No original material is required. As mentioned above, print contest entries and photo contest entries must be sent in an electronic form. In the broadcast contest, tapes, recordings and DVDs are welcome.
- 4) All submissions of print entries (either from traditional paper or electronic media) must consist of one electronic copy of each article with bylines removed. This file must be text only – do not scan tearsheets or newspaper/magazine pages. This electronic copy must be saved as a PDF file (.pdf) or a Microsoft Word 97-2003 Document (.doc). Entries not following these rules will be disqualified. As mentioned above, print entry files must be emailed or filed on a CD or DVD and mailed by the deadline.
- 5) Entries into the broadcast category require only one tape or recording and may be by tape cassette, CD, VHS or DVD formats. Radio and television entries may carry the broadcast station's name and call letters if they are on "as aired" dubbed tapes. TV entries should be dubbed minus commercials if possible to facilitate judging.
- 6) Entries in the photography division must consist of one electronic (digital) copy of each photo. This electronic copy must be saved as a JPEG file (.jpg or .jpeg). Prints, slides and paper copies of photos will not be accepted. Please include a title for each photo entry.
- 7) An individual article, photo or broadcast may only be entered in one category/division. Entering the same piece in multiple categories/divisions will result in the disqualification of duplicate entries.
- 8) There is a limit of two entries per category.

For all Article entries, send submissions to the Writing Contest Coordinator:

Eric Stallsmith, Email: contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

US Mail: 5701 Elmwood Ave, Suite H, Indianapolis, IN 46203

For all Photography entries, send submissions to the Photo Contest Coordinator:

John Martino, Email: jmartino@cityofkokomo.org

US Mail: 12825 W 100 N, Kokomo, IN 46901

For all Broadcast entries, send submissions to the Broadcast Contest Coordinator:

Tom Berg, Email: thomas.berg@comcast.net

US Mail: 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311

CONTEST DIVISIONS

- 1) Writing articles published as 1,000 words or less (Magazine, Newspaper, E-zine).
- 2) Writing articles published as more than 1,000 words (Magazine, Newspaper, E-zine).
- 3) Photography
- 4) Broadcast (Radio-TV-Video)

WRITING ARTICLE CATEGORIES

- 1) Hunting/Trapping
- 2) Fishing
- 3) Conservation
- 4) General Outdoors (other than hunting, fishing, trapping)

BROADCAST CATEGORIES

- 9) Best Radio Broadcast
- 10) Best TV Broadcast
- 11) Best Video

PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES

- 5) Hunting/Trapping
- 6) Fishing
- 7) Outdoor Scenic
- 8) Outdoor Recreation (other than hunting, fishing, trapping)

2011 HOW AWARDS-IN-CRAFT CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Category _____ Division _____

Title: _____

Where published/aired: _____

Publication/air date: _____

Entries and forms must be emailed or postmarked no later than February 28, 2011

A Tribute to Dick Mercier

by Dean Farr

As I put pen to paper, or as we do nowadays, fingers to a keyboard, I am thinking about Dick Mercier and the Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable. This past September, Dick was inducted into the

Indiana Conservation Hall of Fame at Fort Harrison State Park. Dick truly deserves this award for his lifetime commitment to sport hunting and fishing, and more importantly, his commitment to us.



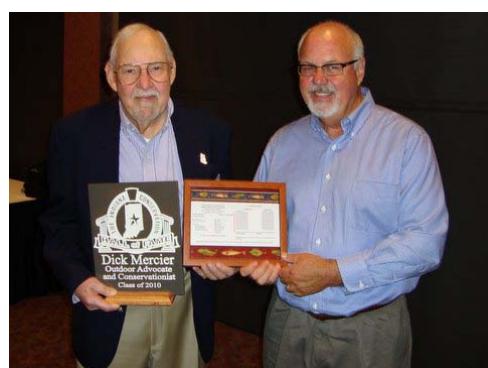
I have known Dick since 2002. At first, it began with emails then a phone call. In that call, Dick was truly inspiring as to what the state of Indiana and we needed to do to ensure our continued enjoyment of our outdoor sports.

Over the years, Dick was there for us sportsmen, whether it was championing our

cause at the state legislature, creating more hunting and fishing access, preserving our hunting ethic by challenging "canned deer hunting," protecting our right to hunt and fish, and challenging legislation that was proposed to restrict duck hunting on rivers and streams. Dick also wanted to guarantee our rights to hunt and fish through a constitutional amendment. The legislators heard him but could not muster the courage to begin the constitutional amendment process. He did the same at the Marion County level when city council action was initiated to restrict hunting in Marion County. Dick stopped that. Thanks, Dick, for being there for us.

A few years ago, Dick, I, and others like John Goss, Indiana Wildlife Federation, Jack Corpuz, Pheasants Forever, Chuck Brinkman, Indiana Smallmouth Association, used to meet periodically for breakfast. We would trade hunting and fishing stories, of course, but we had business as well. We always discussed what we needed to do at the state legislature for us sportsmen. At one December breakfast, we said let's do it – let's pass the senior fishing license this year. The senior fishing license was something Dick had championed for years, and we did. That new license, along with the federal match, will provide an additional \$2.3 million per year for Indiana fishing programs. This is quite an accomplishment for one man to have, a legacy that guarantees the next generation of fisherman some of the same opportunities as we have today.

Dick has stepped aside from leading the Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable, but he is still there as emeritus, offering advice and consultation when asked. Dick will always be remembered for his vision, tenacity, cantankerous personality (in a good way), and commitment to the great out of doors. Dick is truly among the great conservationists. I liken him to Indiana's version of Teddy Roosevelt, an American sporting conservation hero.



John Goss presents Dick Mercier with his "Special Senior Fishing License."

AGLOW's New Medical Advisor Has Outdoor Roots in Indiana

by Bill Keaton

Thomas R. Lowry, M.D. (Tom) was named as the Medical Advisor at the annual meeting of AGLOW in Ashland, Wisconsin last September. Tom is a Board Certified Otolaryngologist (ENT) and a Fellow of the American Academy of Surgeons. Tom is currently associated with Marshfield Clinic in Eau Claire, WI, in the Department of Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery. He is the author of many professional publications and has given a number of presentations in his area of expertise.

Tom is a veteran of the United States Air Force having served from July, 1998 through June, 2008. He served as a flight surgeon and later as Chief of the Otolaryngology Element, Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

Tom served on active duty in the Middle East during his stint in the Air Force. He completed his residency training in Portland, Oregon after graduating from Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Medicine in 1997. He is a graduate of the University of Texas with a B.A. in biology.

Tom has loved the outdoors since he was a child. His childhood years were spent in the country outside of Danville, Indiana. Tom spent countless hours as a youngster exploring the fields, woods, and the small creek that ran through the property where he lived. He caught frogs and small snakes which he often kept and fed in a small terrarium for a while before returning them to the wild. In his teenage years he lived near San Antonio, Texas. He enjoyed fishing in the near-shore waters of the gulf, hunting white-winged doves, wild pigs and whitetail deer.

Today, Dr. Lowry is still an avid hunter and fisherman. He loves to hunt whitetail deer. His passion is archery, but he also hunts with a firearm. He loves hunting wild turkey, pheasant and quail, too. Tom fishes Lake Michigan for salmon and the small pond behind his house for bass and bluegill.

Because of his lifetime of experience in the outdoors and his passion for hunting and fishing, Dr. Lowry brings a medical expertise to AGLOW that will surely be very helpful to the membership in understanding health issues relating to their outdoor experiences. Tom plans to be an active participant, and is looking forward to meeting each one of you. When he doesn't have on his 'professional hat', Tom exhibits a dry wit that will be sure to keep you entertained.

Tom has been married to his beautiful bride, Danica, for eleven years. Danica also has a sharp sense of humor, and is quickly at ease in all circumstances. Tom is the father of two boys, Keaton who is ten and Anderson who is 8. Apart from hunting and fishing, Tom is a devoted family man. He spends many hours as a mentor to his two boys. Tom is raising his sons to love and appreciate what Mother Nature has put before us. Keaton recently went on his first deer hunt, and although he was not successful, he enjoyed an experience with his father from which he grew and learned.

Editor's note: Bill Keaton is the Legal Advisor for both HOW and AGLOW, and Tom Lowry is his nephew. Bill lives in Arlington, IN and has been a HOW member since 1991. Photo courtesy of Dr. Tom Lowry.



HOW Awards-In-Craft Winner

(1st Place in the Writing – Fishing category)

“Hill is Right at Home on Wildcat Creek” by John Martino

His wooden paddle silently sliced the placid waters. Although this was something Greentown’s Garry Hill has done thousands of times, it was an adventure he waited years to make. To him, canoeing is more than a hobby - it’s a way of life.

For centuries, rivers and streams have been a pathway to our existence. They provided transportation, food and drinking water. In many ways they still do, but more importantly in today’s time, they lend spiritual solace from everyday life. They deliver a rejuvenation of sorts and no one knows this better than Hill.

Since his rearing in the tiny town of West Middleton, Hill could be found playing along the banks of Little Wildcat where he fished, hunted squirrels or just spent the day messing around like any typical young boy. His love for our waterways gained an early start. Then in 1972 he accompanied some friends for a canoe trip on the Wildcat Creek. A fire was lit in his heart that continues burning to this day. He has

evolved into a modern day river man and is affectionately known by family and friends as “Muskrat.”

His love for our state’s rivers and streams reached a fevered pitch in those earlier days. In 1976 he started the Wildcat Canoe Club where he brought together a group of people who shared a similar interest. Then, several short years later, Hill and a group of friends formed the Wildcat Guardians, which to this day is one of the most recognized conservation organizations in Indiana. This group has proven instrumental in promoting and protecting our Wildcat Creek, as well as other waterways.

For years Hill wanted to canoe the Wildcat Creek - not just a portion, but all of it, solo and alone. For him it would be a planned suspension in a surreal calm. His goal was to paddle the entire 82-mile long creek from its beginning in extreme south east Howard County. It is here where two diminutive streams, Grassy Fork and Mud Creek merge together forming the Wildcat.

Fortunate for him a friend owned the property at this exact location where he would leave his canoe and camping supplies.

“A friend of mine and I made this same trip back in 1975,” said Hill. Ever since then, the 61 year old Delco retiree had the dream of doing it again, but this time with no one but himself. “It took 34 years for it to happen. Life’s responsibilities kept getting in the way,” he added with a laugh.

(continued next page)



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His plan was to drive his truck to the official end of the Wildcat Creek at its confluence with the mighty Wabash River in Tippecanoe County near Lafayette. In the bed of his pickup was a bicycle which he would ride the 65.7 miles back to his canoe. He accomplished this in just over six hours.

Once arriving back to his starting point, Hill secured his camping supplies which included tent, sleeping bag and food to his beloved Bell Wildfire Canoe. He then gently slid his craft into the water.

For the next six days Hill quietly paddled the 82 miles of slow moving water. He stopped to take pictures of various wildlife and scenery. His nights were spent on islands or sandbars, where he had permission to camp. As each day began, he was greeted with a glassy surface touched by early morning mist, the smell of wood smoke lingering in his sweatshirt. The only thing left were footprints, the only thing taken were memories.

Even though Hill has canoed and kayaked the Wildcat more than anyone, he is

continuously impressed with its scenic venues. "There are many stretches where it's hard to believe you're in Indiana," he said. He also explained that seeing various types of wildlife while silently floating down the creek is something he always appreciates.

"On this particular trip I had a blue heron literally pose for pictures just a few yards away," he said. "I also had a beautiful doe and two fawns wade across right in front of me."

Hill is not your typical canoeist. Unless our creeks are locked in with solid ice, he can many times be found navigating their flowing waters. I have personally witnessed him paddling Kokomo's most prominent waterway when the thermometer hovered below the freezing mark with jagged chunks of ice bobbing around him. "You're nuts," I told him on that frosty January morning. "I guess that makes two of us," he replied with a crooked smile.

Yes, our rivers and streams can still be considered waterways of life. And to this day no one knows this better than Garry Hill.

Reminders:

HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest.....Submission deadline is February 28th.

Lodging reservations at Turkey Run Inn.....Deadline is February 28th.

Annual HOW Conference.....Registration deadline is April 1st.

HOW Member News

Brian Smith Hired As Lightfield's New National Director of Marketing

Lightfield Ammunition Corporation, an industry leader in innovative, high-performance sabot slugs for hunters, as well as specialized, less-lethal rounds for law enforcement, has announced the hiring of HOW member and HOW past-president Brian E. Smith as the company's new National Director of Marketing.

Smith, co-founder and CEO of Indiana-based Raghorn, Inc. - parent company to Indiana Outdoor News Magazine and Adventure Media Productions, brings over 17 years of communications, sales and marketing experience in the outdoors and hunting industries to his new position with Lightfield. He will focus on expanding Lightfield's brand-awareness and market share.

A lifelong hunter, Smith has worked with senior Lightfield personnel for the past few years on a variety of special projects, including the groundbreaking and highly successful Lightfield Wild Adventures television series. He knows there are no substitutes for quality, design and performance in the world of sabotaged shotgun ammunition. "I come from a slug-gun state," says Smith, who has hunted around the world with the Lightfield Hybird and I.P.S. Commander slugs. "I can't think of another line of products - from any industry - that would give me any more confidence or pride to use personally or, ultimately, to represent to the public," he continued.

"We are extremely pleased to welcome Brian to this critical position at our company," said Lightfield CEO, Peter Saker, who expects Smith to be a significant asset in keeping Lightfield slugs both on the minds and in the firearms of consumers. "We believe his unique combination of experience, expertise and media connections will mesh favorably with the Lightfield brand," Saker continued. "And, of course, the fact that Brian is an avid slug gun hunter with a national following through his own media outlets is a significant bonus."

Lightfield Ammunition Corporation was founded in 1982 and specializes in manufacturing the hardest hitting, most accurate sabot slugs available today. The extensive Lightfield product line utilizes two distinctly innovative and proprietary designs to produce superior accuracy at extended ranges for today's hunters. For more information, visit www.lightfieldslugs.com.



Creason Couple Catch Countless Colbert County Crappie

Say that three times fast! Rich Creason and wife Susan had an opportunity this past fall to fish for crappie after the SEOPA conference in Alabama. As you can see from the photo at right, they were very successful.

They fished a small chain of lakes in Colbert County and were almost worn out by the fast crappie action. "We had hardly left the dock with our guide before he began rigging our poles with a jig and minnow combo," said Rich. "We had two poles each, resting in rod holders while I rested in the chair. My nap lasted about two minutes before several of the poles started dancing."

"About 100-200 fish later, we decided to call it quits," continued Creason. "We kept about 25 nice eating size to freeze and take home with us." Sounds like it was a great trip!



took my picture with the deer, loaded it up, took it back to the truck for me, and then headed for the Salamonie Reservoir Nature Center to prepare the Annual Free Hunters' breakfast. They had volunteered to give up their opening day hunt to do this. By the way, all three are Eagle Scouts."

That's not too surprising – Eagle Scouts are always willing to help! Photo by Patrick T. McCune.

Garbers Loses Hunting Blind and More!

Alan Garbers and his wife Dianna are now doing a column for The Outdoor Guide Magazine that starts in April. "This is Dianna's first outdoor writing," said Alan. "She took up deer hunting again this year after a twenty-five year vacation, and now she's shoved me out of my blind, stolen my shotgun, and she's even trying to take my writing job! If the truth be known, however, I proposed to her in 1983 as we were deer hunting in Florida."

McCune Harvests Opening Day Deer

Here's a photo of Ray McCune's opening day 9-point buck. Very impressive!

"After I brought it down, I got a bright idea," said McCune. "Why drag this deer out when I have two sons (Patrick and Michael) and a nephew (Bryan Jensen) that can do it for me?"

"I called them on my cell phone and they came out with my two-wheel cart. They

took my picture with the deer, loaded it up, took it back to the truck for me, and then headed for the Salamonie Reservoir Nature Center to prepare the Annual Free Hunters' breakfast. They had volunteered to give up their opening day hunt to do this. By the way, all three are Eagle Scouts."



Mike Schoonveld is shown here talking to two of the three coyotes he caught at this location. The third song-dog is just out of frame, on the other side of the tall weeds in front of the truck. Photo by Tom Berg.

Schoonveld Scores With Coyote Triple!

Earlier this fall, diehard coyote trapper Mike Schoonveld experienced another ‘first’ on his rural trapline. Trappers encounter a lot of firsts on the trapline: the first time you catch a raccoon, the first time you get sprayed by a skunk, the first time you get your hand caught in your own trap, etc, etc. Some are good, some are bad.

Mike’s recent first was a good one. He caught a ‘Coyote Triple’ in one of the spots where he had set his coyote traps the night before. It’s not unusual for coyotes to run in family groups.

Catching two coyotes at one location (a double) is not terribly uncommon, but catching three is pretty rare. Coyotes are notoriously wary and cautious, so to fool three of them at a single location where only three traps were set is a pretty amazing feat.

Mike was running his trapline with the new Outdoorsman model truck on loan from Dodge, and the truck really got a workout driving around off-road in his Newton County stomping grounds. Before the morning was over, Mike caught a fourth coyote at another spot and it joined the others in the spacious truck bed. It was a very successful day!

Membership Changes and New Email Addresses

The following HOW individual members have reported a change in email addresses or postal addresses. Please make a note of them:

John Davis: New email address: johndavis77@comcast.net

Gary Redmon: New email address: garedmon@gmail.com

If your email address or other information changes, please notify HOW Executive Director Tom Berg at director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org or by mail at 2142 Nondorf St., Dyer, IN 46311 as soon as possible. You won’t receive important HOW updates if we don’t have your current contact info!

Condolences For HOW Member

We have just heard sad news from Associate member Ken Barnes from Bristow. His wife Elizabeth passed away suddenly back in October. On behalf of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers, we extend our deepest condolences to Ken and the rest of his family during this difficult time of loss.



Evie Kirkwood and Outdoor Elements Receive National Recognition

The television program *Outdoor Elements* was recently featured in the December, 2010 issue of *Legacy Magazine*, the national publication for natural and cultural history interpreters at parks, historic sites, zoos and museums. *Outdoor Elements*, hosted by HOW member Evie Kirkwood, began airing its 10th season on WNIT Public Television, which broadcasts in 22 counties in southwestern Michigan and northern Indiana.

Evie (at right) discusses amphibian research with a park interpreter from the City of South Bend, as cameraman-producer Kelsey Zumbrum captures the images. Photo courtesy of WNIT Public Television.

Gene Clifford's Bluebird Patrol A Great Boon to Local Population

Gene Clifford from Valparaiso is a dedicated hunter. He especially likes bird hunting, and he pursues turkeys, ducks and geese every year. But he is also a devoted conservationist, and one local bird species has been benefiting from his efforts for decades. That species is the small but beautiful eastern bluebird.

The photo to the right shows one of Gene's bluebird boxes located along Hwy 30 west of Valparaiso. "All of my 48 boxes are along Indiana Hwy 2 and US 30," he said. "They are mounted on utility poles and fence posts. The sheet aluminum around the pole is to deter coons from climbing the pole and reaching in to steal the eggs or the young birds before they fledge. Last year alone, I fledged over 100 young bluebirds from these boxes. I've been monitoring them for over 20 years."



"This is the sign I put on the back of my truck when checking my bluebird boxes (left). I get honks from passersby, and once I even had an individual stop and give me \$20 for the good job I was doing with the bluebird boxes!"



"Here's a picture of a male bluebird (photo is a little fuzzy) sitting on one of the 48 bluebird boxes I monitor every 10 days to 2 weeks on my 18 mile trail between Valparaiso and Westville," said Clifford. Great job, Gene! Keep it up!

Gary Redmon Bags Trophy Gobbler

Gary Redmon from Greenfield, IN sent a photo and story of a great turkey that he recently harvested. Here's what he had to say:

"Arriving in the dark on the first morning of the Michigan Turkey season, I headed toward my blind. The blind sat on the edge of a large hay field I had hunted in the past with success. After setting up the decoys, I awaited the awakening sounds of nature and hopefully, the turkeys as well, coming off their roosts. Daylight arrived with several gobbles in the far distance, but nothing close."



"Several hours passed, and I was entertained by deer, geese and sandhill cranes sharing the field. In mid-morning, I heard a faint, distant gobble behind me. I grabbed my box call and made a couple of hen calls. After approximately fifteen minutes there was another gobble behind me, only much closer. I made another short hen call and suddenly the big tom came in full strut and began strutting all around my decoys. I shot and successfully bagged the one and only turkey I saw that morning."

"When I examined the bird I found two nice full ten-inch beards. Upon official scoring it totaled 23 5/16 inches in combination of both beards and spurs. The big tom is certified and recorded in the Michigan Big Game Record Book under the Multi-beard Turkey category, which is maintained by Commemorative Bucks of Michigan."

Spaulding Savors Baked Possum (Doesn't Everyone?)



Some time ago, Past-President Jack Spaulding sent the following note to Executive Director Tom Berg after listening to some of Tom's recent stories about trapping possums:

"As a boy," said Jack, "I sold the opossums from my trapline to a neighbor. The going price was \$0.25 for a small one and \$0.50 for a large one. I was a rich boy. All I had to do was make sure they were 'fresh'. With that kind of bounty, every opossum in Rush County was in big trouble!"

"The only mistake I made was accepting an offer to have lunch one day with our opossum-buying neighbor, Anderson Mantooth, and his wife Clara. Sitting down at the table, I glanced up as Clara pulled one of my previous trapline attendees from the oven. It was head-on-skinned and was looking right at me while swimming in about an inch of grease!"

"Talk about plate fright – and it was too late to leave!"

"Anders did the carving. And actually, it wasn't too bad."

Lisa Metheny Stalks Her Way To Southwestern Mule Deer

"Just wanted to share a photo of a recent hunt I was blessed to go on," said Metheny. "New Mexico mule deer! I spotted this fellow early on the 2nd day of my hunt and began the long stalk process. My guide and I got within range on three different occasions, with the closest range at 8 yards. However, there always seemed to be some trees or something between us that would not allow for a clear, clean shot."

"The stalk lasted for hours until I was finally able to separate this boy from his does. Finally, my new Bowtech bow was able to put an arrow through both lungs at 25 yards; he piled up about 60 yards away. What a hunt!"



Berg Accidentally Wades The Wabash

Late last fall, Executive Director Tom Berg made a fishing trip to the Wabash River near Vincennes to fish with his brother Mike (and nephew Steve who is going to college there). While there, they fished from the bank and caught a variety of fish, including largemouth and smallmouth bass, bluegill, drum, skipjack herring and white bass. They also saw a few big grass carp lounging in a small feeder creek trickling into the main river. After watching them for a while, Berg realized they were eating small clumps of moss that were floating out of the creek. Evidently that's what grass carp eat! They would glide up to the surface and suck the clumps of moss right off the surface!

Steve had brought some bread along (all carp like bread!), so Berg planned to use it to catch one of the grass carp. He threw some small pieces of bread in the water as chum, and then put a small piece on his hook and cast it out near the fish. It took a few tries, but soon one of the carp swam over and ate it! Berg set the hook and a big carp rolled and swirled! As it sped away, Berg ran to the water's edge to fight him from there. Unfortunately,

the fish headed for a submerged log and wrapped the line around it.



Tom Berg takes the plunge for grass carp. Photo by Mike Berg.

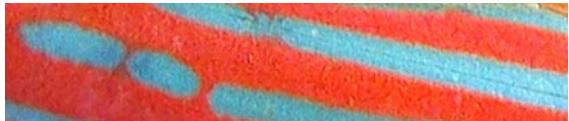
He wouldn't come loose, so Berg took off his socks and shoes and rolled his pants up to wade across the tiny creek. Maybe he could get a better angle on the fish from the other side and free it from the log. The creek was only 6 inches deep where he was crossing, but when he got past the midpoint of the creek his feet suddenly plunged through deep mud on the bottom. He was stuck – mired in 2 feet of sticky mud! The water reached nearly to his waist and when he tried to walk forward, the muck was so deep and clinging

that he fell forward and got wetter and muddier. He finally emerged on the other side of the creek, but the fish was long gone. Arrgggg! Luckily, he had taken his wallet, cell phone and car keys out of his pocket before he took the plunge! The ride home, however, was wet, cold and uncomfortable!

Unusual Nature Photos From The Hoosier Outdoors

Sponsored by G.Loomis

Candy-Striped Leafhopper is Quite Colorful!



Close-up
←
Original
→



The “What is it?” question from the last newsletter was pretty hard, but we did have four HOW members who guessed it. John Martino, PJ Perea, Rich Creason and John Maxwell guessed the right answer, and

John Martino was the lucky winner when we drew names for the cool “Shimano Fishing” prize package.

As you can see, the mystery creature was a very small Candy-Striped Leafhopper. Leafhoppers are incredibly abundant, with at least 2,500 known species in North America alone. I took this photo in my back yard garden, and I can almost guarantee some live in yours!



This is how most Hoosiers see leafhoppers in the field (photo slightly magnified)
Photos by Tom Berg.

John Mazurkiewicz from Catalyst Marketing has once again agreed to have one of his clients (G.Loomis) provide a very nice prize (valued at \$300) to the HOW member that guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be a G.Loomis high performance Xperience fly rod (5-weight). See additional details below.

Berg Poses An Easier “What Is It?” Question

Here’s another Nature Photo mystery. The photo shown to the right is a close-up of the natural color pattern of a common creature that lives right here in Indiana (perhaps right in your own neighborhood). Have you ever seen it? Can you guess what it is?



This creature has a very distinctive look, so it should be easier to identify than some of the previous ones. However, to be in the running for the prize you must be very specific in your identification. If you think it is a particular species of fish, for example, don’t just guess “Fish”. Give the actual species, like “Smallmouth Bass”. Of course, this is not a smallmouth bass! If you think you know what it is, send the answer to me via email at thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you’re right, you will be in the running for the G.Loomis fly rod. If you don’t know, you’ll just have to wait for the next issue of The Blade to find out!



As mentioned above, G.Loomis will be donating an awesome fly rod as a prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. If more than one person guesses the right answer, we will draw one winner at random from the group of correct entries. Good luck to everyone and start straining your brain!

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.

New VX-R™ Illuminated Riflescopes Highlight Leupold's® 2011 Optics Line



Beaverton, OR: Leupold's® new VX-R™ illuminated riflescopes combine proprietary fiber optic technology and an exclusive FireDot™ reticle to provide hunters with exceptional target acquisition, in the bright light of day as well as the low light of dawn or dusk.

VX-R riflescopes feature a single push button illumination system with Leupold's own Motion Sensor Technology (MST™). A touch of the button illuminates the dot within the reticle. By repeatedly pressing the button, the user can select between eight different intensity settings including a high-low indicator, which flashes when either the maximum or minimum intensity is reached. After five minutes of inactivity, the illumination system automatically switches to stand-by mode, but reactivates at the same intensity setting whenever the rifle is moved. This helps extend battery life and, by reducing movement, allows the hunter to maintain greater stealth in the field.

In addition, the FireDot reticle in the VX-R has a fiber optic light pipe with a precisely cut and meticulously polished tip designed to deliver an illuminated dot that can be easily seen in bright light, yet is not overpowering in low-light conditions. Once activated, the dot illuminates with bright, sharp definition, while the rest of the reticle remains non-illuminated. This combination leads the eye naturally to the center aiming point and makes target acquisition quick, precise and simple.

"Riflescopes with illuminated reticles are legal for use in all states that allow centerfire rifles for big game hunting," commented Pat Mundy, communications manager for Leupold & Stevens, Inc. "Our new VX-R illuminated riflescopes allow hunters around the country to see their game in a better way. VX-R offers true daylight-capable illumination as well as the optical performance required to extend those precious minutes at daybreak or day's end."

Leupold VX-R models include 1.25-4x20mm, 2-7x33mm, 3-9x40mm, 3-9x50mm, 4-12x40mm and 4-12x50mm. Each is available with one or more of the FireDot reticle options: FireDot Duplex®, Ballistic FireDot, FireDot Circle or FireDot 4. In addition, the 3-9x40mm, 3-9x50mm and 4-12x40mm models are available with Leupold's Custom Dial System® (CDS®), which helps hunters and shooters get on target at any range, with any load, by matching their scopes to the ballistics of their ammunition and sight-in conditions.

For more information, HOW members may contact Tim Lesser at Leupold (tlesser@leupold.com or 503-526-1401) or visit Leupold's website: www.leupold.com.



HOW Supporting Member News

Crosman Introduces New Gas Blowback BB Air Pistol



Rochester, NY: Crosman® Corporation, long known for innovation and quality in products for the shooting sports, has introduced a new gas blowback air pistol, the C51, featuring a full metal slide and barrel.

Jim Masseth, Crosman Product Manager comments, “many fans of shooting air pistols value the increased realism blowback BB guns have to offer. The Crosman C51 gas blowback features the same action as a real pistol. The realistic recoil action is generated by the release of CO2 propelling the metal slide back, automatically cocking the hammer and chambering a new round,” he said. “In addition to the realistic experience they offer, this BB pistol looks and feels authentic. It’s just a lot of fun to plink with,” he said.



The new CO2 blowback pistol is a semi-automatic repeater powered by a Powerlet® 12 gram CO2 cartridge. It features a comfortable polymer grip and is equipped with a front blade and rear notch sight. The C51 holds up to twenty 4.5mm BBs and resembles a standard US service pistol.

For further information on the new Crosman C51 gas blowback air pistol, or on any Crosman, Benjamin, CenterPoint Hunting and Outdoors Precision Optics and Archery, or Game Face Airsoft products, visit the company's websites at www.crosman.com www.centerpointhunting.com, www.gamefaceairsoft.com, or write to Laura Evans, marketing coordinator, Crosman Corporation, 7629 Routes 5 & 20, Bloomfield, NY 14469. You may also email her at levans@crosmans.com, or call 1-800-7-AIRGUN (724-7486).



SHE Outdoor Apparel Receives Sporting Classics Award



Houston, TX: SHE Outdoor Apparel received the Apparel Award of Excellence from Sporting Classics magazine at the recent SHOT Show. This award is given to the company that best provides top-quality outdoor clothing. “We are thrilled to get this award from Sporting Classics, a magazine that truly captures the essence of the hunting and shooting lifestyle,” said Pam Zaitz, President and Lead Designer of SHE Outdoor Apparel.

SHE Outdoor Apparel earned the Sporting Classics award because they continually provide high-quality products to women who spend time in the outdoors. Whether it's upland hunting, safari or simply spending time in the woods, SHE has something for every woman. For more information, contact Shannon Salyer: shannon@chevalier-adv.com or visit www.shesafari.com.

Membership Changes and New Email Addresses

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

Bruce DeShano (Off Shore Tackle Co): chairmanxx@gmail.com

Jessica Kallam is now the main media contact for Remington and the Freedom Group Family of Companies. Her email address remains the same: Jessica.Kallam@remington.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 Kwiver Co. - www.kwikeekwiver.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.historicsouthernlouisiana.com
Otis Technology - www.otistec.com
Outdoor Promotions - www.crappieusa.com
Plano Molding Company - www.planomolding.com
Poor Boy's Baits/Lurecraft - www.lurecraft.com
Pradco Fishing - www.lurenets.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
Toyota Motor Sales - www.toyotanewsroom.com
Tri-Tronics, Inc. - www.tritronics.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - www.ttiblakemore.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:

<input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers	<input type="checkbox"/> Magazine	<input type="checkbox"/> Photography
<input type="checkbox"/> Books	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio	<input type="checkbox"/> Lectures
<input type="checkbox"/> Television	<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching	<input type="checkbox"/> Trade Journals
<input type="checkbox"/> Artist	<input type="checkbox"/> Public relations	<input type="checkbox"/> Government Info - Ed
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify): _____		

3. Are you paid for your outdoor work? Yes _____ No _____

4. Your work is published or disseminated: Daily ____; Weekly ____; Monthly ____; ____ times a year

Attach samples or other proof of your work in the outdoor field: newspaper clips, letters from station managers attesting to frequency of radio or TV broadcasts, lecture schedule or publicity clips, photo clips or artistic prints, title of latest book, masthead of trade journal showing your position, etc.

Send completed application and article copies to: **Tom Berg, 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311.**

I have read the principles and membership requirements of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers and would like to enroll in the classification checked above.

Signature: _____

Sponsor: _____

Who We Are

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

What We Do

These are the purposes of HOW:

1. To improve ourselves in the art, skill and effectiveness of our craft, and to increase knowledge and understanding of the whole state.
2. To help ensure the wisest and best conservation of Indiana's resources, and the most wide-spread fair use of Indiana's recreational potential.
3. To provide a vehicle for bringing together and joining in common cause all Hoosiers who by profession, hobby or interest are devoted to the outdoors.
4. Conduct an annual Awards-In-Craft Contest among its members. The award winners are announced each year at HOW's annual conference.

What We Stand For

These are what we strive to accomplish:

1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor information.
4. To help friends and fight the foes of wisely conserved Indiana resources.

Membership Requirements

Membership is open to anyone who meets one of the following:

1. Active

Members are those regularly engaged in the paid dissemination of outdoor-oriented information via newspapers, radio, television, 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

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

HOW 2011 Annual Conference: April 15-17, 2011
www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org
Turkey Run Inn, Turkey Run State Park
Parke County, IN

AGLOW 2011 Spring Cast & Blast Event: April 19-21, 2011
<http://aglowinfo.org/>
Lake Barkley, KY

NRA 2011 Annual Meeting: April 29-May 1, 2011
www.nra.org
Pittsburgh, PA

OWAA 2011 Annual Conference: July 9-11, 2011
www.owaa.org
Salt Lake City, UT

POMA 2011 Annual Conference: August 10-13, 2011
www.professionaloutdoormedia.org
Ogden, UT

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