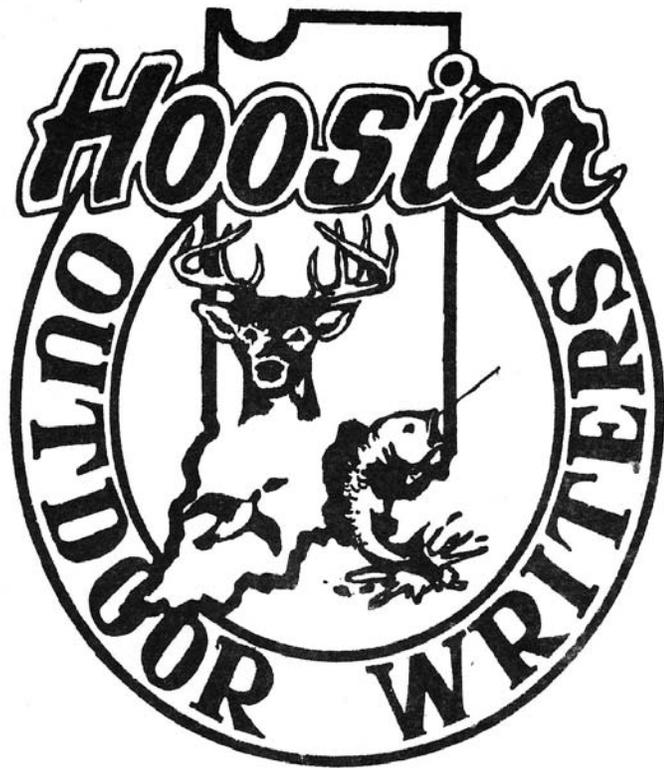
A photograph of a winter forest. The trees are bare and covered in a light layer of snow. The ground is also covered in snow, with some fallen branches and twigs scattered around. The overall scene is serene and quiet.

The Blade

January - February 2012

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers

"Winter beauty", 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.

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Executive Council

Board Chairman

John Maxwell
1136 E. Banta Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
jmaxwell@dnr.IN.gov

President

Brandon Butler
129 Meadow Lake Lane
Fayette, MO 65248
bbutler@driftwoodoutdoors.com

Vice President

Josh Lantz
18738 Old Field Rd.
New Buffalo, MI 49117
josh@sandcreek-media.com

Executive Director

Tom Berg
2142 Nondorf St.
Dyer, IN 46311
director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

Legal Counsel

Bill Keaton
126 West Second St.
Rushville, IN 46173
bill@bishophillguesthouse.com

Newsletter Editor

Tom Berg
2142 Nondorf St.
Dyer, IN 46311
director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

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On the cover: *Whether you are hunting, trapping, bird-watching or simply taking a quiet walk through the woods, new-fallen snow always makes the experience more memorable. Tom Berg photo.*

President's Message

by Brandon Butler

My voice is broken. Some would say lost, but I'm sticking with broken. My feet are still sore and my handshake grip is weakened. Yet, I survived another SHOT Show. Not only did I survive, I left energized (mentally). The state of the Shooting, Hunting, Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Industry is stronger than ever.

"It's a wonderful time to be in our industry," said Sandy Chisholm of North American Arms, a handgun manufacturer. "We've seen tremendous enthusiasm on the part of sellers and buyers, and we see the prospect of a very good year ahead." Many agreed with that assessment of the market and of the SHOT Show.

The SHOT Show is the largest trade show in the traditional outdoor industry. It's so large, in fact, it's the fifth largest trade show in Las Vegas, a city known for huge trade shows. This year, over 61,000 people attended the show. There were over 1,600 exhibitors showcasing their goods in booths, and 2,400 media members walking the floor to find out about the latest and greatest.

The SHOT Show is owned by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearms, ammunition, hunting and shooting sports industry. Revenues from the show support NSSF's many programs that carry out its mission of promoting, protecting and preserving hunting and the shooting sports.

"The SHOT Show allows NSSF to do many good things for industry, shooting and hunting," said NSSF President and Steve Sanetti. Added Chris Dolnack, NSSF senior vice president and chief marketing officer, "We have worked hard to make sure SHOT is a great selling and buying experience, and it has resulted in our best show ever."

Crowded aisles and jam packed booths may annoy some, but most people enjoy the experience of being part of such an environment of like-minded individuals. Manufacturers, sales representatives and dealers alike, left the SHOT Show looking forward to financial gains in 2012.

Todd Vance of Vance Outdoors in Columbus, Ohio, said "We had our best-ever year in 2011, and we've started off this year great and expect to be up." In his store, Vance said buyers are interested in concealable handguns, home-defense firearms, ammunition and tactical rifles, particularly new .22 caliber models.

So I'm sure you're wondering what products jumped out at me. First of all, tactical gear is king right now. There were so many AR-15 manufacturers; I wouldn't even know where to begin. If a company was there who wasn't making an AR platform rifle, then chances are they were selling accessories or associated products, like clothing, bags or ammunition.

One piece of inventive gear I'd like to get my hands on is a set of clothing from Sitka Gear in their new Optifade Marsh Pattern. What makes this camouflage pattern so impressive is that it is designed to mimic what waterfowl sees from the air. It's patterned on the top of brush, not the base of brush. This makes perfect sense to me.

Another trend that was all over the SHOT Show, that I'm not too excited about, is zombies. I don't really get it, but a lot of other people must, because there were zombie guns, zombie ammo, zombie targets, and actual zombies walking around; there were zombies everywhere.

All in all, it was awesome to see so many people enthused by the shooting sports. For those of you who fear the end of times for our passions of shooting and hunting, I assure you, we're fine.

See you down the trail...



The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

Kenny Bayless (Associate)
Terre Haute, IN
Sponsor: Tom Berg

John Galambos (Associate)
Griffith, IN
Sponsor: Mike Ratter

**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
Dick Mercier
Bob Nesbit
Hellen Ochs
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

Annual HOW Conference



You could be the one fighting the big fish this year! On Sunday (after Saturday's conference) we are planning a Lake Michigan fishing trip for salmon & trout for all conference attendees who wish to go. You might just catch the biggest fish of your life, so don't miss this great opportunity! Photos by Tom Berg.

Plan To Attend The "Explore Lake Michigan" 2012 Annual Conference!

Have you been to a HOW Conference lately? Things are a bit different than the "old days" when we had the meeting in Indianapolis every year. Many people liked getting together with old friends in Indy during the middle of February, but most like the new format even better!

Now we meet in the springtime when the weather is warmer, and we gather in a different part of Indiana every year. That gives our members a great opportunity to get out and explore different areas of the state. This year, the HOW Conference will take place at the Radisson Hotel and Star Plaza in Merrillville, IN. This promises to be another excellent conference, and you definitely won't want to miss it!

The event will take place on the weekend of May 4-6, 2012, with the main meeting occurring on Saturday, May 5th. We will have plenty of interesting seminars and speakers at the conference, and the theme for the 2012 meeting will be **Explore Lake Michigan!** One of our speakers will talk about fishing Lake Michigan's tributary streams for salmon and trout, and another will describe trolling for a variety of fish species out on the lake by boat. We will also have the manager of Bodine State Fish Hatchery on-hand to tell us all about Indiana's Lake Michigan fisheries management program, and the property manager from Dunes State Park will discuss the dunes' ecosystem and the Indiana lakeshore.

Are you trying to decide if it will be worthwhile to stay for the entire weekend? You bet it will! On Friday afternoon we will meet for the annual HOW Fun Shoot at a local shooting range. In the evening, we are planning a special "Chicago Style Pizza Party" for all conference attendees and their spouses. Those who stay overnight for the events on Sunday will not be disappointed, either. We are planning a Lake Michigan fishing outing for anyone interested and a trip to the Dunes. See next page for more info.

We have already reserved a block of discounted rooms at the Radisson Hotel for HOW members interested in staying overnight or for the entire weekend, so go ahead and make your reservations now. The details are below. If you prefer to stay at another hotel, there are plenty of choices nearby if you look online or in the phone book.

FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS:

www.starplaza.com or 1-219-769-6311.

Group/Promotional Code: HOOS



Standard King:

(Friday 5/4/12 and/or Saturday 5/5/12): \$99.00 per night + tax.

Standard Double Queen:

(Friday 5/4/12 and/or Saturday 5/5/12): \$99.00 per night + tax.





The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes State Park are great places to explore on a nice spring day! Anyone not fishing out on the lake on Sunday might prefer a visit to the dunes. Photo courtesy of Angela Pasyk, Indiana Dunes Tourism.

Post-Conference Choices: A Trip to Dunes State Park Or a Salmon/Trout Fishing Outing on Lake Michigan!

For everyone who is sticking around after the conference festivities on Saturday, there will be a tough choice to make when it comes to Sunday's activities. Right now, we are planning an early-morning Lake Michigan fishing outing and a trip to the Dunes. Timing for the two trips may clash, so you may have to choose one or the other! But we'll see.

For the anglers in the crowd, we will be getting aboard professional charterboats in search of Lake Michigan's famous salmon and trout. Limit catches are common during the springtime (5 fish per person), and there is always a chance at catching a real trophy. Bruiser chinook salmon, giant brown trout and huge steelhead trout are swimming around out there, along with thousands of eating-sized coho salmon. The action can be fast and furious - don't miss it!



Bill Keaton really likes catching big salmon!

If you'd rather stay on dry land (or if the wind keeps us off the water), that's no problem. We are also planning a trip to Indiana Dunes State Park in Chesterton that will be enjoyable and educational. At Dunes SP, we will have a guided tour that could include seeing Dunes Prairie Nature Preserve, the Dunes Nature Center and its exhibits, a trek along the beach, and of course we will take a hike along one of the parks beautiful hiking trails. Bring your camera to record the incredible diversity of plant and animal life!

More details will be forthcoming in the Pre-Conference issue of The Blade, and sign-up sheets for these two trips will be sent out soon. So start making your plans for the 2012 weekend conference now!

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Annual Conference Registration



Radisson Hotel & Star Plaza in Merrillville, IN (Lake County) – May 4-6, 2012

This registration form is for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 5th
(8:00am – 4:30pm)

Information to appear on badge:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Contact information:

Mailing Address: _____

City or Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Conference Registration Fee per person:

HOW Members (and spouses): \$25.00 each (on or before April 1st) = _____

\$30.00 each (after April 1st) = _____

Non-HOW Members: \$30.00 each (on or before April 1st) = _____

\$35.00 each (after April 1st) = _____

TOTAL = _____

Conference fee includes continental breakfast and buffet lunch on May 5th.

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 16th at the LATEST.

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

The 2012 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

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

TOYOTA MOTOR SALES

**for sponsoring the 2012
HOW Awards-In-Craft Contests**



The 2012 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

HOW CRAFTS AWARD CONTEST RULES

The contest year shall be for material published or aired from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011. 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 will continue the format that was started last year by allowing electronic submissions only. We no longer accept paper entries. This has resulted in much less work for entrants, contest coordinators and judges. It also conserves valuable natural resources, which is something we can all be proud of. Entries must be submitted via email or filed on a 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 March 7, 2012. 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 submitted as a Microsoft Word 97-2003 Document (.doc) or as a PDF file (.pdf). Entries not following these rules will be disqualified. As mentioned, 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 sent 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. Digitally produced photos should not be substantially manipulated. Allowable photo enhancement is limited to standard shooting/darkroom techniques, such as color correction, contrast control and image cropping.
- 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)

2012 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 March 7, 2012

Of Mule Deer and Grizzly Tales

by Garry Burch

I recently made my first-ever trip to Wyoming to hunt Mule deer. Mulies have always seemed to elude me. Past bowhunts to both Colorado and Arizona failed to produce a mule deer that I could take home. So, when the offer came from friend Mike Moskalick to fill-in for a family member that couldn't go on their family's annual hunting trip to Wyoming, I just couldn't pass it up.

Last April, I applied for a rifle season buck tag. In July I got my confirmation that I had my tag. Wow, it was really happening! Filled with a million questions, I tried to line-up what I needed for the hunt. Having hunted out west before, I had in my mind I would be hiking far into the backcountry. Little did I know I wouldn't need to go that far back into remote wilderness areas. We would be mostly hunting agricultural areas in the lowlands.

My deer tag arrived with information from the Wyoming Fish & Game Dept. concerning grizzly bears. They were pushing the fact that grizzlies are protected and hunters (and everyone else) should stay away from them. They also pointed out the things to do if you have an encounter. I asked my friend Mike if they even really see any grizzlies? His answer was yes. My response was "Oh, OK."



The drive to Wyoming was 22 hours with no motel stops. We drove the whole way, taking turns sleeping in the van and stopping only for gas, food and restrooms. That was a first for me, but it worked.

On our first evening before the hunt, I walked out to a vantage point to check the hay fields for bucks. I didn't take my .44 magnum since I felt safe near the barns and livestock. Opening day found us on stand watching a hayfield at the foot of the mountains. With no luck seeing bucks, we headed back to the small cabins on the ranch to grab a little breakfast. I was soon being called by the rest of the guys to grab my camera and come see something they found. I rounded the corner of my cabin and the guys were all looking at the ranch's dirt road that passed a few feet from our cabins. In the dirt was a set of grizzly tracks coming from the direction I had just walked the evening before. That made my trip right there. It was awesome to see something I thought I would only see in Alaska if I ever got there. That experience also made me start packing my .44 magnum when I didn't have my rifle.

One of the guys in camp talked to two guys who had come back from hunting on public land. He

asked if they had any luck. The guys said, “We didn’t hunt; we saw 5 grizzly and we turned around and got out to hunt someplace else.”

The next morning we awoke to 3 degrees and a dusting of snow. I was glad I had a good sleeping bag. We sat for only a short time due to the cold. I had to keep moving since it was so cold. We took a long way back to camp, hunting all the way. As Mike and I stepped onto the same dirt road where the grizzly had walked the night before, I looked down and saw fresh-looking grizzly tracks in the snow, headed right for camp again. I remembered around 2:00-3:00am hearing a fence wire twang outside our cabin. I thought a deer had run into it. The snow told the tale of a grizzly that might have gotten shocked. The rancher told us to keep a loaded rifle in the cabin just in case he tried to get at our food.

The next evening I was still deer-less. At about 2:00am, much to my resistance, I had to answer the call of nature. The camp’s grizzly visit in the early morning was heavy on my mind; it adds a new unexpected concern to a nature call. You really watch every bush or boulder to see if it moves. The worst part was I got in a hurry and left my .44 back in the cabin!

The grizzly must have had enough of our camp in the following days, as it didn’t visit us again. Two days later I got my first 3x3 mule deer buck. Only one hunter in our group with a buck tag didn’t get a buck. The others got their bucks and even some extra does. The extra deer were left behind in the care of the rancher’s pastor to help feed 13 needy families he knew. It was an awesome way to share with others in need.

I also found it interesting that the grizzly and rancher seemed to tolerate each other very well. The rancher had not lost any cattle to the bears.



On a visit into town I learned even more about old Griz. I already knew that grizzlies were responsible for two deaths

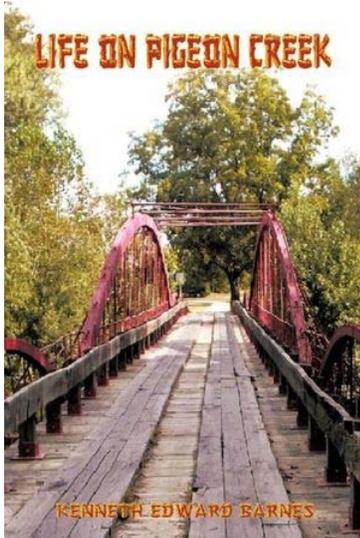
in the Yellowstone area that summer. But in town I told one checkout person in a store about our grizzly visit and she said her boyfriend was mauled only two weeks earlier. A grizzly charged him while he was deer hunting. He tried to shoot it but his gun jammed. She said, “See, here he is on my cell phone pictures”. Sure enough, he was in a hospital bed, alive but pretty beat up and scratched. This lady’s sister also had an encounter walking back to her truck two months earlier, but with no injuries. She was able to keep her pickup truck between herself and the bear.

At another store a cashier said, “I think Indiana needs some grizzlies. You can take some home with you because we really don’t like them.” It sure would add a new excitement to going to my Indiana deer stand early on a dark morning. I told her I think we would pass on that one.

Great trips aren’t always measured in the game taken, but in the experience God allows us as a whole.

Editor’s note: Garry Burch from Valparaiso, Indiana has been a HOW member since 2006. He is proud to be a Co-Ambassador for the Indiana Chapter of Hunt of a Lifetime, and he is a Board Member for the Turkey Tracks Hunt (for disabled youth). To see a photo of his Wyoming mule deer, check out page 14 in the Member News section. Photos courtesy of Garry Burch.

HOW Member News



Barnes Finds Great Success At December Book Signing

Ken Barnes from Bristow, IN sent a short note about a book signing that he organized recently to help promote one of his new books. This one is about his early life and growing up near Pigeon Creek in Warrick County in the 1950's.

“I just wanted to tell you about my book signing I had at the Warrick County Public Library in Boonville,” said Barnes. “They said no other author ever had that many people show up for a book signing even when they had eight authors at once! I sold all of the copies of *Life on Pigeon Creek* that I had and there were several people that could not make it for the signing that wanted to come. The library said they were swamped with calls. I also sold some other books, but that was the most popular book because it is about Warrick County. I am having another book signing in the near future.”

A book signing is a great way to meet people and boost sales of your newest book. HOW members should consider this the next time they have a new book published!

Don Bickel Needs Your Prayers

Long-time HOW member Don Bickel from Crawfordsville is once again fighting the same lymphoma that he battled more than a decade ago. He is doing well, but he still needs your prayers. Here is a note he sent when asked how he was feeling:

“It is a return of the large-cell non-hodgkins lymphoma of 12 or 13 years ago,” said Don. “The oncologist said, ‘We can put that in remission.’ Of course, it will be necessary to go through the chemo hoops. I had the first treatment on December 22nd, so Christmas was – well, it could have been better for me. The next treatment will be January 11th. I don't know, but I am guessing at least 6 of them. Other than losing weight, the chemo has not bothered me as far as nausea.”

“As for treatments, we have a cancer center here in Crawfordsville, 5 minutes from the house. Before, it required a trip to Indy every 3 weeks. Indeed a blessing, considering the winter weather. Last time, I let the weight thing get to me and that didn't help. Now I know that when my system is compatible with the chemo, that will change. 12 years ago, chemo took about 2 hours at the most, now it is an 8-hour stint. Whatever works.”

“I know prayers are most helpful; I learned that from the past. Thanks for thinking of me.”

Editor's note: Don had his second treatment the second week of January and continues to improve. He doesn't think he'll make his annual trek to Florida in March, but by April hopes to be doing much better. He is planning to attend the HOW conference in Merrillville in May. We wish him a speedy recovery!

Burch and Friends Succeed In Wyoming Quest For Mule Deer

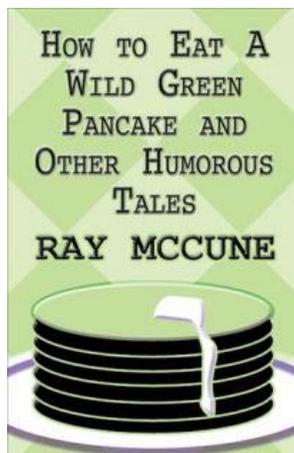
Garry Burch from Valparaiso, IN returned from a memorable hunt out west recently. For more info, see pages 9-10. In the story below, Garry describes the successful end of his hunt.

“About the fourth morning, things were not looking good as far as getting a buck. The weather has to be nasty up on the mountains to get enough snow to drive the deer down into the valley where we were hunting. That was just not happening. Finally, my hunting companion Mike Moskalick decided to break the ice. He had a doe tag and he decided to fill it. This was one deer that was going to feed some needy families that our rancher pastor knew.”



Garry and his mule deer. Garry Burch photo.

“A doe started in our direction and Mike took it with his .270 rifle. That seemed to start the ball rolling. Soon we saw a buck near us and Alex, a nephew of Mike’s that was looking for his first deer, took the shot. That was number two on the ground. I stayed where I was, watching the action. Then one of the guys called me over to where they were gutting the two deer. They saw a buck coming towards them. Actually, several deer (mostly does) were running in our direction. At first, I couldn’t spot the buck. Then I saw him. It was a small 3x3, but his antlers were dark brown. Size didn’t really matter to me as I always wanted a dark rack like that. I lined up the buck but he was not stopping. I gave it a small lead, and at the sound of the shot it went down - but was back up so I shot again. This time it went down. I hoped for good, but I couldn’t see it. I took my eyes off of it to secure my rifle, and then I was off to find it. I looked and looked, but couldn’t find it. I thought it had joined the does and I missed it. Up the mountain I went. I found the does, but no buck was with them. I went back, thinking it had to be between the does and where I shot it. As I rounded the hillside, my friend Mike asked if I found my deer. I said no. He said, “Well, then take this one!” He found that my buck had fallen into an irrigation ditch and they had already dragged it out into the field with them. I was so happy! My first Mulie was on the ground. I must say it was the icing on the cake for me. I can also say after the fact that it was very good eating, too. I thought Arizona was the place to be for mule deer, but I found out Wyoming is pretty good, too.”



McCune Updates Humor Book

Ray McCune from Waynedale, IN has been busy again with his humor tales. “As you may know, I’ve changed publishers and revamped my book *HOW TO EAT A WILD GREEN PANCAKE*,” stated McCune.

PublishAmerica is the new publisher, but all of the funny stories are still there. The book tells many tales about a boy and his friends (The Hill Top Gang) growing up in a small railroad town in the 1940’s-50’s. What they did was typical behavior of young boys, and everything is seen through their eyes - but in an exaggerated way. Just don’t use any of the ideas the Hilltop Gang came up with!

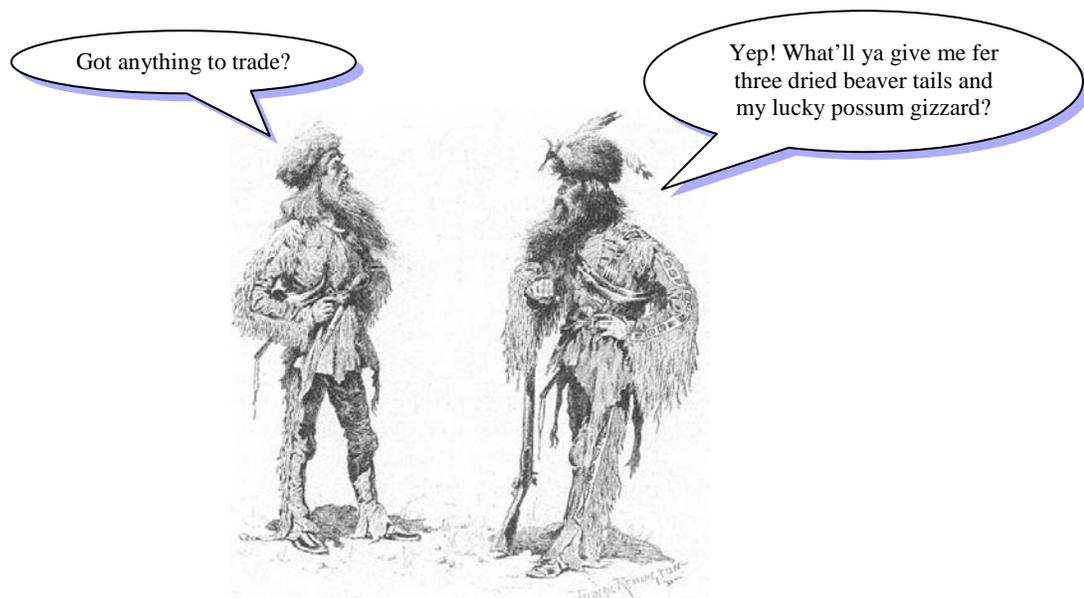
The HOW Trading Post

This section of the newsletter is set aside for HOW members to list items (especially outdoor gear) that they would like to sell. Limit one listing (or group listing) per member, per issue. Please contact the seller for more info – not the newsletter editor!

For Sale: Mossberg 835 UltiMag 12 Gauge Camo (near new condition).
Choke tubes: Extra full turkey, full, modified and Improved Cylinder.
Shells: 2¾-inch, 3-inch, and 3½-inch.
New list price: \$510, best price I could find: \$430.
Slug barrel best price: \$149. (This was a blued barrel, mine is Camo).
Asking price: Gun: \$350, Barrel: \$100 Total: \$450
Offered by: Bill Keaton (bill@bishophillguesthouse.com)

For Sale: Icefishing equipment:
2-man shelter with bucket seat: \$100
6" auger with drill attachment: \$50
Sled with poles, lures etc: \$50
Portable Fish Locator by Humminbird: \$100
Asking price: Individual items as listed above, or I will sell everything together for \$250
Offered by: Gene Clifford (hoosierhunter@frontier.com)

“I have all my icefishing gear for sale as I haven't used it for 3 years - now that the rabbit season goes into the middle of February. Anybody interested I'll email them pictures.” Gene Clifford



Unusual Nature Photos From The Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Bass Pro Shops

Do You Say “Crayfish” or “Crawfish” or “Crawdad”?

The “What is it?” question from the last newsletter was very interesting! Some HOW members thought it was too easy, while others said it was too hard! A



Close-up

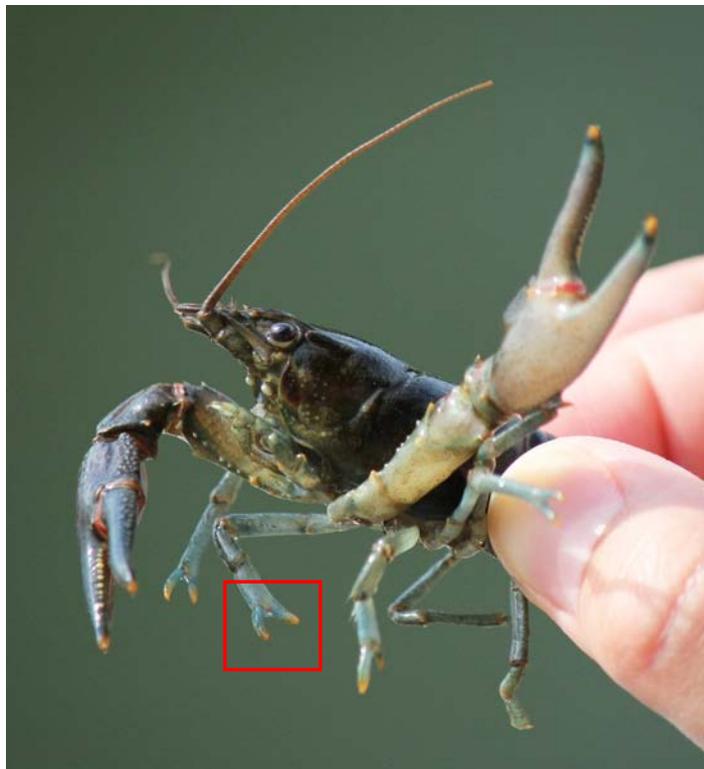


Original



total of 11 HOW members correctly identified it: Dianna Garbers, Mike Schoonveld, PJ Perea, Alan Garbers, Jack Spaulding, Ken McBroom, John Maxwell, Don Bickel, Bill Keaton, Phil Seng and Marty Jaranowski each guessed the right answer. When we drew a name for the **Brownells** gift certificate, Ken McBroom was the big winner.

As you can see in the photo to the right, this time the mystery creature was a crayfish. People around here call them crayfish, crawfish, crawdads or mudbugs, but if you lived in Europe or Australia you might call them yabbies! There are about 500 species of crayfish in the world, and more than 350 of them live right here in the USA. These crustaceans are actually arthropods (an invertebrate animal with an exoskeleton, a segmented body and jointed limbs), and they can be a great fishing bait!



For this issue, our friends at **Bass Pro Shops** have agreed to provide a very nice prize for the HOW member that guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question (see below). This time the prize will be a gift card for merchandise that the winner can choose from the Bass Pro Shops stores, catalogs or website. See the bottom of the page for more info.

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

Here’s another Nature Photo mystery. The photograph shown to the right is a close-up of part of a common creature that lives right here in Indiana. It might live unnoticed, right in your own backyard. It can also be found throughout the state. Have you ever seen it? Can you guess what it is?

This creature may be harder to identify than the last one, but we’ll see. Do you know of any Hoosier creatures that look like this? Take a guess! This time you **DON’T** have to identify the exact species. If you believe it’s some kind of spider, for example, go ahead and just guess “Spider”. If you think you know what it is, send the answer to me via email to thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you’re right, you’ll be in the running for this issue’s prize. For everyone who doesn’t know, you will just have to wait for the next issue of The Blade to find out!



As mentioned above, **Bass Pro Shops** will be donating a \$100 gift card for merchandise from their stores or catalogs as a prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. The winner may also shop at www.basspro.com. If multiple people guess the right answer, we’ll draw one winner at random from the group of correct entries. Good luck and have fun! All photos on this page by Tom Berg.

HOW Supporting Member News

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



Renfro Productions Gears Up For 58th Annual Indianapolis Sport Show

Indianapolis, IN: The Ford 58th Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show, the largest indoor event of its kind in the nation, is scheduled for February 17-26, 2012 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. Now bigger and better than ever with over 600 exhibitors, this sports show has been providing “something for everyone” for over three generations.

The Show offers outdoor enthusiasts the widest selection of products and services - from canoes to cruisers, RVs to tents, tourism to hunting and fishing. Attendees can also learn tips and techniques from leading industry experts and be entertained by stage shows. And, with over 22 states and several foreign countries represented, it's easy to plan your next vacation.

Started three years ago, the popular “Quiet Sports” area continues to grow in size and popularity. The area contains the very latest in “all things human powered” equipment. There are also specific seminars and demos each day in the “Quiet Sports” area.

For those attending the Show during its opening and closing weekends, the admission ticket also includes the 15th Annual Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo in the Exposition Hall February 17-19, and the 21st Annual Indiana Motorcycle Expo February 24-26, also in the Exposition Hall.



To receive press passes, HOW members can request them online on the Media page of each of the show's websites. Just click on “Press Passes” and fill out the online form. For more information, contact: Janine Lawton at JLawton@renfroproductions.com. You may also visit www.renfroproductions.com or www.indysportshow.com for the latest info.

<u>Show hours:</u>	Friday, February 17:	3 p.m. - 9 p.m.
	Saturdays, February 18 & 25:	10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
	Sundays, February 19 & 26:	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
	Monday, February 20:	1 p.m. - 9 p.m.
	Tuesday-Friday, Feb. 21-24:	3 p.m. - 9 p.m.

This event remains the largest of its kind in the nation!

HOW Supporting Member News

HOW Supporting Members Receive NASGW Awards

NASGW National Association of
Sporting Goods Wholesalers

Reno, NV: Members of the National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers met in November at their Annual Expo and Meeting, held in Reno, Nevada. Each year at this event, NASGW awards the top accessory, ammunition, optics and firearms manufacturers who best demonstrate a commitment to two-step distribution and who provide outstanding value and service. Wholesaler members evaluate the performance of manufacturers on four key criteria; distribution policy, marketing, sales and promotion; logistics and operations and NASGW and industry support.

HOW Supporting Members did very well at the awards ceremony, walking away with 75% of the honors. Here is a list of our winners:

- 2011 Optics Manufacturer of the Year: **Leupold and Stevens**
- 2011 Accessories Manufacturer of the Year: **Birchwood Casey**
- 2011 Firearms Manufacturer of the Year: **Sturm, Ruger & Company**



Leupold and Stevens: “We are honored to receive the NASGW’s first Optics Manufacturer of the Year award, and greatly appreciate the individual product honors,” said Pat Mundy, communications manager for Leupold & Stevens, Inc. “We value these awards because they reflect the professional judgment of those who buy, sell, use and evaluate optics nationwide. This is great feedback and motivation for our hundreds of employees who work day in and day out to make products that meet the highest standards of optical performance, mechanical function and rugged durability.”

For more information on Leupold and Stevens, contact Pat Mundy at 503-526-1467 or pmundy@leupold.com.

Birchwood Casey: Birchwood Casey was named Accessories Manufacturer of the Year for the fourth year in a row. Since 1948, serious shooters, avid collectors and professional gunsmiths have relied on Birchwood Casey for shooting and gun care products that have stood the test of time. From legendary Tru-Oil Gun Stock Finish and Perma Blue Liquid Gun Blue to revolutionary Shoot*N*C Targets, Birchwood Casey has pioneered innovative products with an unwavering dedication for quality.



For more information on Birchwood Casey, contact Todd Binsfeld at 952-937-7928 or tbinsfeld@birchwoodcasey.com. HOW members may also contact Mike Capps at Howard Communications (573-898-3422 or mcapps@howardcommunications.com). Check their online pressroom at www.howardcommunications.com.

Sturm, Ruger & Company: “Ruger is incredibly grateful to have been awarded Manufacturer of the Year for the fifth year in a row,” said Ruger CEO Mike Fifer. “We remain dedicated to our two-step distribution model, and earning this honor proves that our commitment is valued and appreciated by wholesalers. We aim to share our success with wholesalers, and will continue to produce new, high-quality products that help us maintain a strong competitive advantage in the marketplace. We want to thank NASGW members for this award and their continued support,” Fifer concluded.

For more information on Ruger, contact Ken Jorgensen at kjorgensen@ruger.com or check out their website at www.ruger.com.



HOW Supporting Member News

ENVIRON-Metal Introduces New HEVI-Shot Pheasant Shotshells

Sweet Home, OR: This new HEVI-Shot® shotshell takes the Pattern Density Technology™ in HEVI-Metal® shells a step farther. It uses the same layering technique of dual-density pellets, premium steel and HEVI-Shot®, to make sure hunters have all the knock-down power they need – all while giving them significantly higher pellet counts to fill in any possible holes in the pattern.



The layering lets the high-density pellets outrun the steel by just a little, for maximum patterning consistency. Then, we use steel 4's to match the knockdown power of lead #5's, and steel #5's to match the knockdown power of lead #6's.

Amazingly, the HEVI-Metal® pheasant product has the effective range of lead #5's, with a better pellet count. And the HEVI-Metal® shell has 14% more pellets than a steel shotshell with the same effective range. Of course, like all HEVI-Shot® products, these shotshells are nontoxic, nonlead, and can be used on any upland birds in any hunting area, whether lead is allowed or not. And they are magnetic, so they are easy for conservation officers to check.

For more information, please contact Kelly Sorensen, VP of Sales & Marketing for Environ-Metal, Inc. at 541-367-3522 or ksorensen@hevishot.com.

Costa Sunglasses Casts New Double Haul



Daytona Beach, FL: The New Year brings new styles to Costa's collection of performance sunglasses, with Double Haul being first in line to debut. Serious anglers will appreciate Costa's signature vent system in Double Haul's frame front to alleviate lens fog in extreme weather conditions, as well full eye coverage to allow full range of vision while on the water.

Double Haul features a large fitting frame with Hydrolite™ no-slip nose pads, sturdy integral hinges and durable co-injected molded temples for a comfortable "forget-they're-on" fit. The new style is available in tortoise, black and the new translucent crystal frame colors.

Anglers can customize Double Haul in Costa's patented 580™ lenses in either glass or polycarbonate (580P). Costa's 580 lenses block yellow light at 580 nanometers on the light spectrum. The result is unparalleled levels of polarization and color enhancement, so outdoor enthusiasts can see objects through the water clearly.

As the leading manufacturer of the world's clearest polarized performance sunglasses, Costa offers superior lens technology and unparalleled fit and durability. Still handcrafted today in Florida, Costa creates the highest quality, best performing sunglasses on the planet for outdoor enthusiasts.

For more information, contact 1-800-447-3700 or visit the company's web site at www.costadelmar.com. HOW members may contact Liza Jones at Full Circle PR, 864-672-9615 or liza@fullcirclepr.com.

HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Alpen Optics - www.alpenoutdoor.com
Alpine Archery - www.alpinearchery.com
Altus Brands - www.altusbrands.com
Aquateko International - www.aquateko.com
Arizona Rim Country - www.ezfletch.com
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Back Mountain Outdoor Products – www.bmoproducts.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
BoatUS - www.boatus.com
Brownells, Inc. - www.brownells.com
Buck Knives - www.buckknives.com
Bundy Ducks - www.bundyducks.com
Cabela's, Inc. - www.cabelas.com
Camp Chef - www.campchef.com
Carbon Express - www.carbonexpressarrows.com
Carolina North, Mfg. - www.roperatchet.com
Castalia Outdoors - www.castaliaoutdoors.com
Church Tackle Company - www.churchtackle.com
Clam Outdoors - www.clamoutdoors.com
Coleman Company - www.coleman.com
Costa Del Mar - www.costadelmar.com
Creative Outdoor Products - www.hunterdan.com
Crosman Corporation - www.crosman.com
CTI Industries - www.zipvac.net
DeLorme, Inc. - www.delorme.com
Dreamweaver Lures - www.dreamweaverlures.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
FLW Outdoors - www.flwoutdoors.com
Flying Fisherman - www.flyingfisherman.com
Frabill - www.frabill.com
Freedom Group Companies - www.freedom-group.com
Frogg Toggs - www.froggtoggsraingear.com
G.Loomis - www.gloomis.com
Gamo USA - www.gamoussa.com
Gerber Legendary Blades - www.gerbergear.com
Goat Tuff Products - www.goattuffproducts.com
Hart Productions - www.hartproductions.com
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - www.henryrepeating.com
Hoosier Trapper Supply - www.hoosiertrappersupply.com
Hoppe's - www.hoppes.com
Horton Archery - www.crossbow.com
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - www.hmhco.com
Howard Communications - www.howardcommunications.com
HT Enterprises - www.icefish.com
Human Energy Concealment Systems - www.hecsllc.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
Ind. Smallmouth Alliance - www.indianasmallmouthalliance.org
Jewel Bait Company - www.jewelbait.com
Johnson Outdoors, Inc. - www.johnsonoutdoors.com
KG Enterprise, Inc. - www.kgenterprise.com
Koppers Fishing & Tackle - www.livetargetlures.com
Kruger Optical - www.krugeroptical.com
Kwikee Kwiver Co. - www.kwikeekwiver.com
L&S Bait Co. - www.mirrolure.com
LaCrosse Footwear - www.lacrossefootwear.com
Lamiglas, Inc. - www.lamiglas.com
Leupold - www.leupold.com
Lightfield Ammunition - www.lightfieldslugs.com
Lodge Manufacturing - www.lodgemfg.com
Mathews - www.mathewsinc.com
Mossy Oak - www.mossoak.com
Muzzy Products Corp. - www.muzzy.com
MyTopo - www.mytopo.com
National Shooting Sports Foundation - www.nssf.org
Normark Corporation - www.rapala.com
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - www.mossberg.com
Off Shore Tackle Co. - www.offshoretackle.com
Okuma Fishing Tackle - www.okumafishingteam.com
Ono's Trading Co. - www.onostradingcompany.com
Orange County CVB - www.historicsouthernindiana.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.lurenet.com
Predator Innovations - www.hangonbuddy.com
Primos Hunting Calls - www.primos.com
Princeton University Press - www.press.princeton.edu
Proline Fishing, Inc. - www.prolinefishing.com
Pure Fishing - www.purefishing.com
Quaker Boy, Inc. - www.quakerboygamecalls.com
Reef Runner Lures - www.reefrunner.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
Rocky Brands - www.rockyboots.com
Savage Arms - www.savagearms.com
SHE Outdoor Apparel - www.shesafari.com
Shimano American Corp. - www.shimano.com
Slammer Hunting Innovations - www.slammerhi.com
Snag Proof Manufacturing - www.snagproof.com
Solar Bat Sunglasses - www.solarbat.com
South Shore CVA - www.southshorecva.com
Sportsman Channel - www.thesportsmanchannel.com
Sportsman's Connection - www.sportsmansconnection.com
Star Brite Distributing - www.starbrite.com
Strikemaster Corporation - www.strikmaster.com
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - www.ruger.com
Taylor Brands - www.taylorbrandsllc.com
ThermaCELL - www.thermacell.com
Thundermist Lure Co. - www.thundermistlures.com
TomBob Outdoors - www.tomboboutdoors.com
Toyota Motor Sales - www.toyotanewsroom.com
Tri-Tronics, Inc. - www.tritronics.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - www.ttiblakemore.com
Uncle Josh Bait Co. - www.unclejosh.com
Vexilar, Inc. - www.vexilar.com
Victory Archery - www.victoryarchery.com
W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery - www.wrcase.com
WaveSpin Reels - www.wavespinreel.com
Winchester Ammunition - www.winchester.com
Wrangler Rugged Wear - www.wranglerruggedwear.com
Yakima Bait Co. - www.yakimabait.com
Z-Man Fishing Products - www.zmanfishing.com

HOW members are encouraged to check these websites for general info and answers to product and service questions.

Hoosier Outdoor Writers

Application For New Membership

(Check Desired Classification below)

- \$30 _____ Active
- \$25 _____ Associate
- \$50 _____ Supporting
- \$15 _____ Active Student
- \$10 _____ Associate Student

Personal Information:

Name: _____
Company (Supporting members only): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Professional Information:

Employer (if outdoor-related): _____ Position: _____
Business Address: _____
Business Phone: _____

1. Describe your work in the outdoor field: Full Time _____ Part Time _____

2. Check your field(s) of outdoor work:

_____ Newspapers	_____ Magazine	_____ 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 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: (www.hartproductions.com) Cincinnati, OH	January 20-22 & 25-29, 2012
Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show: (www.renfroproductions.com) Indianapolis, IN	February 17-26, 2012
NRA 2012 Annual Meeting: (www.nra.org) St. Louis, MO	April 13-15, 2012
HOW 2012 Annual Conference: (www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org) The Star Plaza Merrillville, IN	May 4-6, 2012
AGLOW 2012 Spring Cast & Blast Event: (www.aglowinfo.org) Niagara County, NY	May 14-17, 2012
OWAA 2012 Annual Conference: (www.owaa.org) Fairbanks, AK	September 4-6, 2012
AGLOW 2012 Annual Conference: (www.aglowinfo.org) Chateau on the Lake Branson, MO	September 17-20, 2012

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.