

The Blade

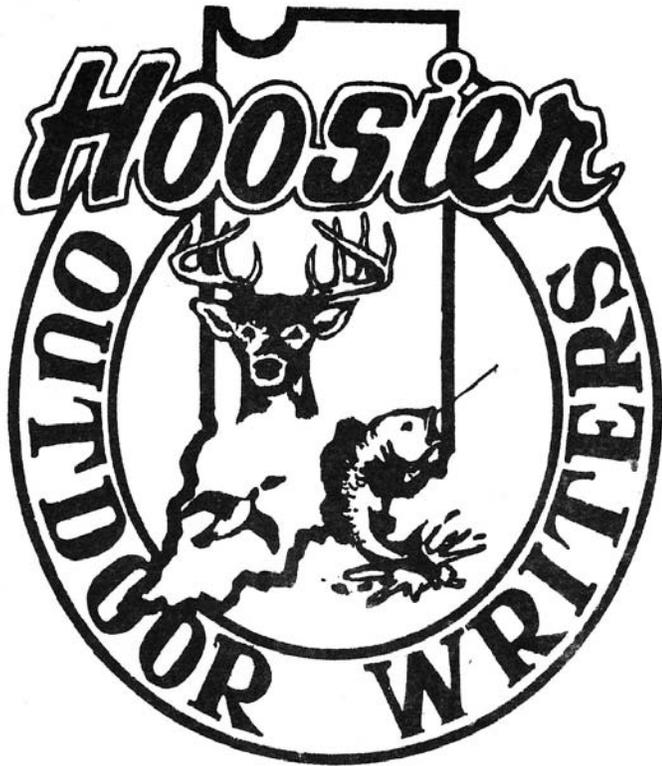
2012 Pre-Conference Issue

March - April 2012

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Lake Michigan's Trophy Brown Trout", photo by Tom Berg



Hoosier Outdoor Writers

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

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On the cover: *Fishing Lake Michigan in March and April can be very cold and wet, but the excellent fishing usually makes it worth the effort! Here HOW member Mike Schoonveld holds a trophy-sized brown trout caught near the Gary Lighthouse on his boat "Brother Nature". Photo by Tom Berg.*

President's Message

by Brandon Butler

All through my younger years and even into early adulthood, I had no idea how one becomes an outdoor writer. Each month, as I flipped through the pages of publications like *Indiana Game & Fish*, *Midwest Outdoors*, *Indiana Outdoor News* and so many others, I gave no more thought to the profession than, "Man, this Schoonveld fella has one hell of a gig."



Then something inside of me triggered a desire to figure out how I, too, could be paid to go fishing. The Bloomington Herald-Times gave me an opportunity to write a weekly outdoor column and I was hooked from the start. Seeing my words in print was as powerful as finding a bag of gold. I knew then and there I'd write about the outdoors for the rest of my life, and more specifically, about Indiana's outdoors.

Meeting others who felt the same way became a priority. I found those folks. They are my fellow members of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers. It didn't take long to feel at home amongst the members of HOW. Men I had admired from afar; Bayou Bill, John Martino, Tom Berg, John Maxwell, and yes, even Brian Smith, quickly became more than "famous" outdoor writers, they became my friends and my colleagues. Now I've been in the fold for a while, and a person or two around the state has read my work. Heck, I've even met a handful of folks who have asked me how in the world one gets paid to go fishing. To which I always respond, "I don't know. Ask Mike Schoonveld."

But seriously, we all know our craft is about so more than being paid to go fishing. It's about inspiring others to go fishing and hunting and camping and metal detecting (you're the man, Rich!). It's about teaching and building ethics amongst the masses. And it's about ensuring a future for our passions, which includes our passion for communicating outdoor experiences. We need to inspire more people to become outdoor communicators.

I sure hope to see you at this year's HOW conference. Lake County is my home county, and although it has more than few obvious blemishes, "The Region" is beautiful. I may have to point out a few finer points for you, but I promise, it's there. While you're at the conference, take a good look around. It shouldn't take long to notice there aren't many young folks in attendance. With the exception of myself and HOW's only male model, Mr. Ben Shadley, you won't find many people under the age of 40. This has to change if HOW is going to survive.

Traditional communication channels are drying up. Magazines and newspapers are changing. But communicating in general has never been so prevalent in everyday life. Spend 10 minutes with a teenager and they'll "text" someone, or Tweet or Facebook. Today's kids communicate...all the time. We need to turn some of them into outdoor communicators. Encourage someone. Inspire someone. Explain the steps to a successful stay amongst the outdoor writer ranks. Let them know the chances are they won't have Michael Waddell's career and their books probably won't outsell Zane Grey's, but they might change the life of a little girl who's father decides to take her fishing because their work planted the desire to do so.

Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving as your president. Growing up, reading Jack Parry in the Post-Tribune, I never dreamed I'd do what I'm doing. I love Indiana. I've lived in some spectacular places; Colorado, Montana and Missouri, yet I still believe with all my heart, Indiana is the greatest state in the country.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

**Don Cranfill (Associate)
Bloomington, IN
Sponsor: Brandon Butler**

**Tom Cranfill (Associate)
Bloomington, IN
Sponsor: Brandon Butler**

**Mitch Strobl (Active Student)
Cincinnati, OH
Sponsor: Brandon Butler**

**Paul Moore (Active)
Henderson, KY
Sponsor: Tom Berg**

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
Brandon Butler	2011

2012 HOW Conference Preview

Explore Lake Michigan!

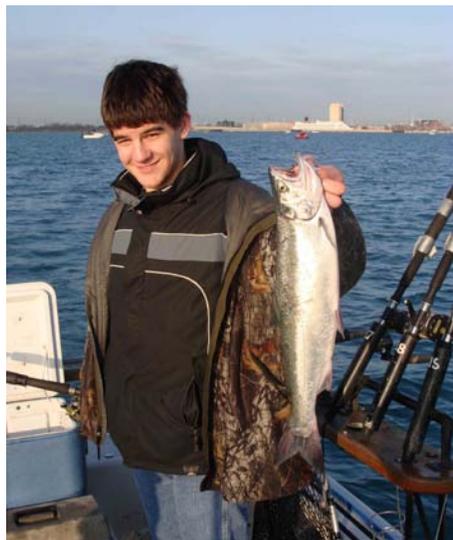
As everyone should know by now, this year's HOW Conference is scheduled for the weekend of May 4-6, 2012. This will mark the first time we have had a HOW Conference north of Indianapolis, and this year we will be visiting northwest Indiana. The main meeting will take place on Saturday, May 5th at The Radisson Hotel and Star Plaza in Merrillville, IN. It is very easy to find since it is located right at the intersection of Interstate 65 and U.S. Route 30, but there is a map and directions in this issue.

For those HOW members who are interested, we will be holding our annual HOW Fun Shoot on Friday afternoon, May 4th. We will meet at Oakwood Gun Club near Wheatfield at 1:00pm central time. See page 8 for directions and more information.

On Friday evening, we will gather in the lobby at the Radisson Hotel at the Star Plaza in Merrillville at 6:00pm before heading to the Lake County Fish & Game Protective Association's clubhouse for a pizza party and get-together. This will be a great time to see old friends and make some new ones! Besides the food, we are planning to have a variety of beverages available, so come thirsty!

As mentioned earlier, the annual meeting itself will take place on Saturday, May 5th. HOW members who can't make it Friday night or who can't stay until Sunday should feel free to come for the meeting on Saturday. It is "The Main Event", and a lot of people will be coming on Saturday only.

We have lined-up some excellent speakers and presenters for this conference. Speros Batistatos, the President and CEO of the South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority will be on hand to greet us Saturday morning and give a quick description of the South Shore CVA and what Lake Michigan's South Shore area has to offer outdoor enthusiasts.



Brandt Baughman, property manager at Dunes State Park will provide an overview of the Dunes and some of the major projects that have occurred in the park over the last few years. Some of them are very unique and noteworthy, such as the Daylighting of Dunes Creek, the installation of the AlgaeWheel WWTP, and more.

Kevin Morlock of Indigo Guide Service will talk about Lake Michigan tributary fishing for salmon and steelhead at different times of the year. He will discuss tips, methods, techniques and gear, along with reading water and catching fish. He will also give some insight on how writers can work with guides successfully.

(continued next page)

Dave Meuninck, Manager of Bodine State Fish Hatchery in Mishawaka will talk about Indiana's hatchery and Lake Michigan stocking programs. He will explain what it takes to produce salmon and trout for stocking the lake and its tributaries.

Capt. Doug Iliff from Anglers Adventure Fishing Charters will be our final speaker, and he will talk about trolling for Lake Michigan salmon and trout from spring throughout the summer months. He will include tactics, gear and how to find fish in the open expanses of our Great Lake.

The annual conference has traditionally been a time to renew old friendships and make new ones, but it is also a time to honor the achievements of our members with the annual Awards-In-Craft contests. This year we will award prizes for outstanding writing, photography and broadcast media. A special thank-you goes out to Toyota Motor Sales, USA for sponsoring this year's contests again.

THE ANNUAL HOW RAFFLE

Listen-up, raffle hounds! The annual HOW Raffle is shaping-up to be another fabulous one. Last year we had a record number of companies that contributed products or services to the raffle, and this year will be nearly as good. We have already received raffle donations from more than 80 contributing companies and organizations, and several more have indicated that they are in the process of sending outdoors-related products. So the number of contributing companies is sure to grow.



The annual raffle is the highlight of the meeting for some of our members, and they won't be disappointed this year. For those who can't wait for the big day to hear what we will be raffling off, here is a partial list that should convince you to bring along a little (or a LOT of) extra cash:

Firearms enthusiasts will be happy to hear that we will have a Mossberg lever-action .30-30 rifle, a Remington Model 11-87 shotgun, a Benjamin .177 air rifle with scope and a Gamo .177 air rifle with scope. There will also be a great Horton crossbow with scope. Fishermen in the crowd will be eyeing a dazzling array of fishing rods, fishing reels and lures of all shapes, sizes and colors. There will also be lots of icefishing gear (including icefishing rod/reel combos), shooting supplies, a great assortment of ammunition, gun cases, premium sunglasses, hunting gear, waterproof binoculars, spotting scopes, knives, a lure-making kit and a top-quality gun vise system. There's also hunting calls, turkey hunting gear, outdoor apparel for both summer and winter, a hand-carved walking stick from the master carvers at Bundy & Company, outdoors books, cast iron cookware, arrows and other archery gear.

And that's just a sample of the items in this year's raffle!

So make sure you attend this year's conference and buy plenty of raffle tickets. You can't win if you don't play! Good luck!



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. 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 what the weather holds for us.

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!

This spring the fishing for lake trout has been outstanding, at least when the weather allows boats to get out to the fishing grounds. In the photo to the right, Capt. Mike Schoonveld lifts a nice lake trout that one of his guests caught on an offshore outing. This is a medium-sized fish – they get much bigger!

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!

After the conference is over, check out some of the local sights, historic landmarks, museums, eateries, shopping centers, visitor centers, parks, beaches and other unique attractions.

For more ideas, check out the following excellent websites:

South Shore Convention & Visitors Authority:
www.southshorecva.com

Indiana Dunes Tourism:
www.indianadunes.com

HOW Fun Shoot

The HOW Annual Conference always begins with the HOW Fun Shoot. At least, that's how it has been for the past several years (or more). This year will be no different. And since the conference will be held at the Star Plaza in Merrillville, right in the heart of shopping malls and city life, we needed to find a shooting facility nearby where we could meet and break some clay targets.

Our facility this year will be Oakwood Gun Club, located south of Merrillville off of I-65 and Rt. 10. This location should be especially convenient for the majority of the shooters, since they will be heading north for the conference anyway.

This year's shoot will take place on Friday afternoon, May 4th. We will meet at the gun club at 1:00pm (that's 2:00pm Indy time!), shoot a round of sporting clays and enjoy the great outdoors. This will be a great chance to get together and renew old friendships, while spending quality time outside at the shooting range.



You should bring your own gun this year, but you won't need any shotgun shells. Mike Schoonveld says that our friends at Remington have graciously offered to supply the ammunition for the shoot, so HOW members who are interested in shooting will only need to show up with their smiling faces! We will need to pay a small fee for using the facility and the clay targets, though. The cost will be \$25 for a round of sporting clays (10 rounds per station, and there are 10 stations), payable at the gun club.

Once we are done shooting, we will head north for the Star Plaza and get ready for an evening of fun at our "Chicago Style" pizza party. President Brandon Butler has picked out his favorite pizza joint of all time to supply the pizza, so we're sure it will be good. Here are the directions to Oakwood Gun Club:



From Merrillville, go south on I-65 and get off at Rt. 10. You will jog to the north and then follow Rt. 10 east until you get to Rt. 49. Turn right (south) on 49 and it is less than a mile on the west side of the road. From Indianapolis, go north on I-65 and get off on Rt. 10. Then follow the same directions above.

2012 HOW Conference

We would like to thank the following companies and organizations:



Awards-in-Craft Sponsor



**Friday Evening
Pizza Party Sponsor**



Conference Meal Sponsor



Conference Meal Sponsor



Conference Meal Sponsor

**as the official sponsors of the
2012 HOW Annual Conference**

HOOSIER OUTDOOR WRITERS

Annual Meeting on May 5, 2012
The Star Plaza (Palace/Paradise/Regal Room)
Merrillville, IN

TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE

8:00-9:00am

Registration, continental breakfast.

8:30-9:00am

HOW Board of Directors meeting.

9:00-9:20am

Opening remarks by outgoing President Brandon Butler and briefing about the day's schedule. Speros Batistatos from the South Shore CVA will welcome HOW members to the area and give a quick overview of the South Shore CVA and what Lake Michigan's South Shore area has to offer outdoor enthusiasts.

9:20-10:05am

Presentation #1: Brandt Baughman, property manager at Dunes State Park will give an overview of the Dunes and some of the recent projects there. Some are very unique and noteworthy, such as the Daylighting of Dunes Creek, the installation of the AlgaeWheel WWTP, and more.

10:05-10:15am

Break.

10:15-11:15am

Presentation #2: Fishing guide Kevin Morlock will talk about Lake Michigan tributary fishing for salmon and steelhead at different times of the year. He will also give some insight on how writers can work with guides successfully.

11:15-11:30am

Business meeting, Slate of new officers, presentation of President's Award.

11:30-12:30pm

Buffet lunch and social time for members.

12:30-1:15pm

Presentation #3: Dave Meuninck, Manager of Bodine State Fish Hatchery will talk about Indiana's hatchery and Lake Michigan stocking programs. He will give an overview of what it takes to produce salmon and trout for stocking the lake and its tributaries.

1:15-1:45pm

HOW Awards-In-Craft presentation (Writing, Photography, Broadcast).

1:45-2:15pm

Break. Raffle tickets go on sale!

2:15-3:00pm

Presentation #4: Capt. Doug Iliff from Anglers Adventure Fishing Charters will talk about trolling for Lake Michigan salmon and trout from spring throughout the summer months. He will include tactics, gear and how to find fish in the open expanses of our Great Lake.

3:00-3:15pm

Break. Last chance to buy raffle tickets!

3:15pm

Annual HOW Outdoor Writer's Raffle.

4:30pm

Meeting adjourns.

6:00pm

Dinner on your own for those staying until Sunday.

Directions to The Star Plaza in Merrillville:

From Indianapolis: Travel north on I-65 and exit at U.S. 30 WEST. Star Plaza is on your right as you exit.

From the south suburbs of Chicago: Take I-94 into Indiana and exit I-65 SOUTH. Stay on I-65 and exit U.S. 30 WEST. Star Plaza is on your right as you exit.

From eastern Indiana: Take U.S. 30 WEST and drive until U.S. 30 intersects with I-65. Star Plaza is located on the northwest corner of that intersection.



From downstate Indiana by way of U.S. 41: Drive North on U.S. 41 until it intersects with U.S. 30. Travel EAST on U.S. 30 to the intersection with I-65. Star Plaza will be on your left.

Reality Check:

Caution: Although it is very easy to get to the Star Plaza via Interstate 65, be advised that traffic on I-65 and possible construction will likely cause delays. As always, do a reality check when mapping out your course and estimating arrival times. Purdue University in Lafayette will be letting out for the summer on this weekend, so don't be surprised if carloads of families/college kids are clogging the highway going north. Please plan accordingly!



HOW Raffle Donors - 2012

This list of raffle donors was compiled shortly before the conference. Additional raffle donations may come in after press time, and they will be acknowledged in the next issue.

Alpen Optics
Alpine Archery
Altus Brands
Aquateko International
Arizona Rim Country
B'n'M Poles
Back Mountain Outdoor Products
Barnes Bullets
Bass Pro Shops
Battenfeld Technologies
Birchwood Casey
Boat U.S. Angler
Brownells, Inc.
Buck Knives
Bundy Ducks
Bushnell Outdoor Products
Carbon Express - Eastman Outdoors
Castalia Outdoors
Church Tackle Company
Clam Corporation
Clifford, Gene
Carolina North, Mfg.
Costa Del Mar
Creason, Rich
Crosman Corporation
CTI Industries
Dreamweaver Lures
Environ-METAL, Inc.
Federal Premium Ammunition
FLW Outdoors
Flying Fisherman
Frabill
Freedom Group - Remington Arms
Frogg Toggs
G.Loomis
Gamo USA
Gerber Legendary Blades
Goat Tuff Products
Human Energy Concealment Systems
Henry Repeating Arms Company
Horton Archery
HT Enterprises, Inc.
Hunter's Specialties
Johnson Outdoors, Inc.
Koppers Fishing & Tackle Corporation
Kruger Optical
Kwikee Kwiver
Leupold
Lodge Manufacturing
Mathews
Mossy Oak
Muzzy Products Corporation
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.
Off Shore Tackle Company
Okuma Fishing Tackle
Otis Technology
Outdoor Promotions
Plano Molding Company
Poor Boy's Baits/Lurecraft Industries
PowerPro Line
Princeton University Press
Pure Fishing
Quaker Boy Game Calls
Reef Runner Lures
Savage Arms
Shimano American Corporation
Snag Proof Manufacturing
Solar Bat Sunglasses
Star Brite Distributing
Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc.
ThermaCELL
TTI-Blakemore Fishing
Uncle Josh Bait Company
Vexilar, Inc.
Victory Archery
WaveSpin Reels
Winchester Ammunition
Wrangler ProGear
Wrangler Rugged Wear
Wright & McGill Company

DNR News

Division of Law Enforcement

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2748

For immediate release: February 26, 2012



Dead Alligator Found In Kankakee River By Fishermen

Indiana Conservation Officer Keith Wildeman was contacted by two fishermen who made a surprising discovery on the Kankakee River in Starke County on Sunday. Jeff Brewer and his father Steve Brewer discovered a dead alligator stuck in a logjam about 2 miles downstream from the English Lake public access site. The Brewers had just launched their boat and were heading out for an afternoon of fishing when Jeff spotted the foot and tail of the alligator sticking out of the water. Using a landing net, Brewer was able to retrieve the dead gator from the water and returned to the boat launch with the carcass to meet with Officer Wildeman. The alligator measured 4 feet 7 inches and its mouth had been taped shut when Brewer made the discovery.

Officer Wildeman noted that the partially decomposed alligator appeared to be dead for awhile. The fact that its mouth was taped shut was an indication that the alligator is believed to be a pet that outgrew its welcome and was released unlawfully into the river. “There is no possibility that an alligator can survive Indiana’s winter climate, let alone with its mouth taped shut unable to feed,” said Officer Wildeman. This is believed to be an isolated incident. Anyone with any information about the alligator is urged to contact Indiana

Conservation Officers at 1-800-TIP-IDNR.



According to Indiana State Law, crocodilians in possession over 5 feet in length require a permit from the IDNR Division of Fish & Wildlife. Individuals must meet strict guidelines and regulations to keep these types of animals in captivity.

Media contact: Keith Wildeman, Indiana Conservation Officer 574-249-0118

Indiana's DePauw University Approves Trap and Skeet Club

Students Flock to Inaugural Event

Greencastle, IN – March , 2012 – [DePauw University's](#) recently approved [Trap and Skeet Club](#) is off to a running start. The university granted permission to form the club on Feb. 5, 2012. Within a week, more than 85 students had joined and 30 attended the initial shooting event. The need for the club and desire among students to support it are evident.

Of the 30 students in attendance at the inaugural event, 13 had not shot previously. The club utilized shooting range safety officers to brief shooters on gun safety, range etiquette and basic shooting skills. By the end of the day, smiles were rampant and clays were busting!

“Having never been around guns before, they scared me,” said new shooter Anisha Khanna. “However, after my first time shooting, I found guns are safe when used correctly in a safe environment... not to mention, how much fun they can be when aiming at clays! My first experience definitely left an impression and I'm looking forward to the next time I can go shooting!”



“Club members are grateful for DePauw’s willingness to allow students who love to shoot and those who wish to learn a structured club environment in which to participate, learn and grow,” said founding member Mitch Strobl, a DePauw senior.

“Before the club was approved students had to try and find places to shoot, connect individually with landowners near school or forego enjoying the shooting sports due to a lack of opportunity,” Strobl added. “In addition, because firearms are not permitted on campus, personal relationships had to be developed to store firearms off campus.”

DePauw, like many schools, was distanced from hunting and the shooting sports. The establishment of the trap and skeet club is a historic step by the university and an even bigger step for recruiting new shooters and teaching them in a safe, ethical and collegial environment. The club also plans to develop competitive shooting teams that can represent DePauw at national and international scholastic shooting competitions.



“As a young club, we welcome input and support from shooting sports industry experts, local businesses and Greencastle residents,” Strobl said. “We’ve also set up an account for the DePauw shooting program through the [Scholastic Shooting Trust Fund](#) for anyone who would like to make a contribution in the name of DePauw’s shooting program.”

The fund, which is part of the MidwayUSA Foundation, Inc., was created by Larry and Brenda Potterfield, founders and owners of Midway USA. The mission of the fund is to raise money for high-school, college, and university shooting teams across America. Because the MidwayUSA Foundation is a public charity, contributions are tax deductible. The best part of donating to the DePauw team through this charity is matching donation made to the team by the Potterfield family.

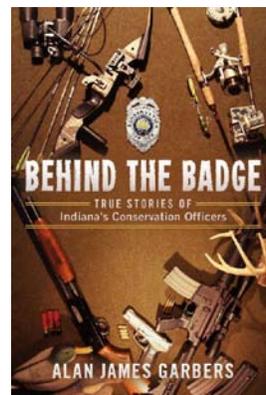
For more information, contact HOW Member Mitchell Strobl:
513.237.7425 or mitchellstrobl_2012@depauw.edu

<http://www.depauw.edu/orgs/trap-skeet/> [Facebook Group](#)

HOW Member News

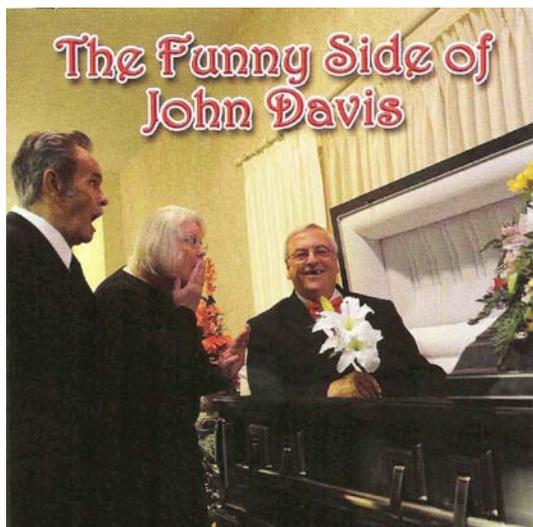
Garbers Publishes New e-book

Alan Garbers from Martinsville has recently joined the e-book revolution. “I thought HOW members might like to know my e-book, *Behind the Badge*, is out on Amazon, Nook, and other e-book places,” said Alan. “It is a collection of the *Behind The Badge* columns I’ve done for *Indiana Outdoor News*. I had BookBaby format it for me, get the ISBN number, distribute it, and do the cover from a photo I took.” Editor’s note: It looks great!



John Davis Tickles Funny Bone

Long-time HOW member John Davis from Winona Lake, IN has published another audio CD, and this one is titled *The Funny Side of John Davis*. Unlike some of his previous recordings which feature Hawaiian music and country-style gospel music, this CD concentrates on humorous songs and parodies sung and performed by John and his talented friends.



“This CD is unique,” wrote John. “Its sole purpose is to make you laugh and enjoy some light relaxation. For years I have had requests for these songs which I have sung at various events. With this CD I have fulfilled those interests.”

There is quite an assortment of songs on the CD, but the newsletter editor’s favorite is “*Five Pounds of Possum*”. Here are a few lines from this little ditty:

“There’s a five-pound possum in my headlights, tonight! If I can run him over everything will be alright! I’ll make some possum gravy – oh, what a sight! There’s a five-pound possum in my headlights, tonight!”

“It took about 10 months to complete the project,” said Davis. “The bluegrass band that is used with four of the songs is located in Fort Gay, West Virginia. The remainder of the instrumental and vocal backgrounds was provided by Tim Bushong of Syracuse, IN. Tim runs his own recording studio up there but most important, he is a master musician. On the CD he plays six different instruments.”

“The cover photo was taken at Titus Funeral Home in Warsaw. Jerry Titus was a wonderful help in getting this done. As we were taking photos, a lady walked into the room and while sitting in the casket, I began to sing ‘I’m back in the casket again...’ (To the tune ‘I’m Back in The Saddle Again’). The lady stood there in amazement at this crazy scene. ‘If this is a customer, I’m dead,’ Jerry moaned. It turned out the lady was a salesperson.”

HOW Board Chairman Fishes with Ranger Bob and Warden Shadley

The Three Amigos strike again! No, not Steve Martin, Chevy Chase and Martin Short. HOW Chairman of the Board John Maxwell from Indianapolis, along with HOW Board Members Bob Sawtelle from Corydon, and Dean Shadley from Rushville, were busy striking terror into the local Florida Keys fish populations during early February!

Maxwell reported that the Reef Runner Deep Diver fishing lures he won at the 2011 HOW Raffle attracted plenty of colorful groupers in the 7-pound range. The lures were trolled over underwater humps on the Atlantic side of Vaca Key. The Terrible Trio also caught good-sized Spanish mackerel, and most of them were caught about 8 miles north of the Vaca Cut in Florida Bay, north of Marathon.



Maxwell displays a hefty Florida grouper fooled by a cool-looking Reef Runner Deep Diver lure (in the new "Lights Out" color pattern). Photo courtesy John Maxwell.



Above: Warden Shadley lifts a nice Spanish mackerel. Right: Shadley and Ranger Bob grin as they exchange tall tales while fishing Florida Bay in February. Photos by John Maxwell.

The fishing team also caught cero mackerel, jack crevalles, barracuda and red grouper around Vaca Key. Just outside of New Pass on Big Sarasota Bay, Sawtelle and Maxwell also boated lots of bluefish that gobbled Clouser minnow flies. Sea trout were in the grass flats inside the bay, too.



Schoonveld Finds Cheap Fun In Florida

Mike Schoonveld from Morocco, IN made a trip to Florida in February to do some fishing and exploring. What did he see? Read on:

“The Kennedy Space Center between Cape Canaveral and Titusville, Florida is on a natural barrier island, separated from the mainland by the Indian River Lagoon. Much of the Island that wasn’t developed for the space program was turned into Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge,” said Mike.



Above: Florida alligators lounge along the shoreline, waiting for lunch (tourists). Right: A roseate spoonbill wades the shallows looking for a meal of his own. Photos by Mike Schoonveld.

“Call me cheap,” he said. “It cost \$38 per person to get into the space center but access to the special, self-guided wildlife drive through Merritt Island NWR was free to people who have purchased a duck stamp (and only \$5.00 for a car load of non-stamp owners). My wife Peggy and I took the wildlife drive. These photos prove we made the right choice!”

Membership Changes and New Email Addresses

The following HOW individual members have changed their membership status:

Dan Anderson: Changed from Associate to Retired
Ken Barnes: Changed from Associate to Active

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

Ken Barnes: New email address: kenedbarnes@hotmail.com
Michael Ellis: New email address: ellis5612enterprises@embarqmail.com
Alan Garbers: New email address: alanjamesgarbers@yahoo.com
Bob Jennings: New home mailing address: 103 S. Dayton St., Worthington, IN 47471
Brian Traylor: New email address: btray@hughes.net

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!

Spaulding Family Welcomes Great Granddaughter

There have been rumors lately that Jack Spaulding is getting old, but they have finally been confirmed. The elder Spaulding is now a Great Grandfather!

“Our new great granddaughter, Addison Grace, was born March 4th and weighed in at a healthy 7 pounds,” said Jack. “Mother and child are doing well. Praise God!!”

Congrats to the proud Great Grand Parents, Jack & Chris.



Schoonveld Finds Winter In Door County, WI

“Everyone will admit this last winter was short on ‘winter’ if your idea of outdoor recreation includes snow and ice,” said Mike Schoonveld. “And though I’m not a rabid winter sports fanatic, I do enjoy the dots and dashes of rabbit tracks in the snow, the sounds lake ice makes when it expands and cracks under the pressure and the satisfaction of being bundled warm enough on frigid days.”

“So when I got the invitation to Wisconsin’s Door County for a late February trip, I jumped at the chance to go find some winter. I found some, but just a little - just enough.”

“Though there was residual snow on the north sides of buildings, most of the landscape was as bare and brown as Indiana has been this winter. No snowmobiles, XC skiing or snowshoes for our group. But we weren’t bored.”

“There was a foot of ice and plenty of willing-to-bite whitefish swimming under it. That’s where I spent most of my time. But a visit to the Maritime Museum furnished some inside fun and many in the group, myself included, let our creativity run wild at a hands-on art center. At the center you can choose to learn make pottery, mosaics, ceramics and other crafts or my choice, metal art.”

“I found some winter. Now it’s time for spring!”



Younger Keldsen Chosen For 2012 USA Junior Olympic Shotgun Team

HOW member James Keldsen from Walkerton, IN recently announced some pretty impressive news. His son Jakob was named a 2012 USA Junior Olympic Shotgun Team member. He is the only one from the Hoosier state, and the only one from the north half of the US in skeet.



Jakob is 18 years old and has been shooting competitively since the seventh grade. How much practice does it take to be competitive? “During the spring and summer I typically shoot 2 to 3 days a week,” he said. “During each practice I shoot 100-200 rounds and each practice lasts about two hours.” Besides regular practice sessions, the Junior Olympic team usually holds a training camp in the summer.

For those of you who are wondering how someone like Jakob gets to the Olympics from here, the path is still very challenging. “The junior Olympic team is the first step a shooter takes to the Olympics,” explained Jakob. “The next step is to make the national team. This is done at the selection matches. The national team competes in overseas competitions where they can acquire points. The shooter with the most points gets the Olympic berth.”

Jakob’s father James is justifiably very proud. “All three of our boys shoot International Skeet and it is a great family activity,” he said. “We have had a wonderful time working with USA Shooting and all of the people involved in the sport.”

Keep up the good work, Jakob, and good luck with your future competitions! For more info, check: <http://www.usashooting.org/news/2012/2/7/184-usa-shooting-unveils-2012-junior-olympic-shotgun-team>

Creason’s Travel Calendar Is Full

Rich Creason from Anderson wrote a nice article about his dinosaur dig from last year, and it just came out in the *American Digger*, a national magazine.

“We will be going back to dig more bones this summer,” said Rich. “Already scheduled for this year is a fishing trip to Reelfoot this month, Alabama next month, HOW Conference, AGLOW Cast & Blast in Niagara, a weekend metal detecting trip to Ontario in May, an 8-day treasure hunt in southern IN in June, SD in July, maybe Canada fishing in August, SEOPA in TN in September, Gulf Shores in September or October, hunting somewhere in the fall. See you at the conference!”



HOW Members Attend 2012 SHOT Show

Two HOW members who attended the annual Shooting, Hunting and Outdoors Trades (SHOT) Show at the Sands Convention and Expo Center in Las Vegas this year raved about it (as usual). Check out what they had to say and some of the photos:

According to HOW President Brandon Butler:

"Attending the SHOT Show is something I look forward to every year. I mean, where else can you be surrounded by 60,000 like-minded individuals who love guns, hunting and the American way? Going to the Sportsman Channel and Outdoor Channel award show are always a blast. It's like the Oscars for rednecks. You hear over and over how small the outdoor industry is, and at the SHOT Show you feel it. Everywhere you turn, you see someone you know. It's our industry's annual family reunion."

Here's what HOW Past-President Brent Wheat said:

"If you've never been, you owe it to yourself to make the commitment and attend the show at least one time. Once you've seen it, I think you'll always go back. One of my primary reasons for attending is the networking that occurs during all the meetings, press conferences, booth tours and after-hours socializing. I can go to Vegas and meet all the players in the shooting and outdoor industry, come up with too many story ideas to ever write in one year and strengthen relationships with those people I already know. The trip is time and money well-spent for an outdoor communicator."

Brent has been attending SHOT shows since approximately 1996 and would be happy to help any HOW member who is planning a trip to the show in 2013.



To say Brent Wheat had fun at SHOT would be an understatement. The photo at left shows him smiling over the Gatling Gun he shot. The photo at right shows him with R. Lee Ermy of movie and TV fame. Photos courtesy of Brent Wheat.

Unusual Nature Photos From The Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by B'n'M Poles

Praying Mantis Is A Fierce Back Yard Predator

The “What is it?” question from the last HOW newsletter was evidently way too easy!

A total of 12 HOW members correctly identified it: Dianna Garbers, Mike Berg, Ken McBroom, Brian Waldman, PJ Perea, Mike Schoonveld, Alan Garbers, Rich Creason, John Maxwell, Don Bickel, Bill Keaton and Phil Seng each guessed the right answer. When we drew a name at random for the **Bass Pro Shops** gift certificate, Brian Waldman was the big winner. Congratulations, Brian!



Close-up



Original



As you can see in the photo to the right, this time the mystery creature was a Praying Mantis. These insects are well camouflaged and are usually green or brown in color. They prefer to lie in ambush or slowly stalk their prey, and they use their front legs to capture smaller insects with lightning-fast reflexes. As the photo shows, their legs are equipped with fearsome spikes for snaring prey and pinning it in place.

For this issue, our friends at **B'n'M Poles** 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 B'n'M website or catalog. 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 back yard. 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 **must** identify the exact species. If you believe it's some kind of bird, for example, be specific and guess “Goldfinch”. 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, **B'n'M Poles** will be donating a \$100 gift card for merchandise from the B'n'M website as a prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue's “What Is It?” question. If multiple people guess the right answer, we'll draw one winner at random from the group of correct entries. Good luck! All photos on this page by Tom Berg.

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: Ammunition:
9mm Luger, 115 GR, centerfire, nickel-plated cases.
Comes in a 250-round Mega Pack box. I have two boxes.
Asking price: Sells for \$62.99 per box at Bass Pro Shops, but I will sell for \$40 per box.
Offered by: Tom Berg (thomas.berg@comcast.net)

For Sale: Boots:
A pair of Rocky Boots, size 13M. Deer stalker Xtreme, 1400 gram Thinsulate, plus Gore-Tex. Worn two times on ice. Very warm, even with thin socks.
Asking price: Will take \$120 and ship anywhere.
Offered by: Don Bickel (765-362-0915 or edgeoftheprairie@sbcglobal.net)

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

Anyone interested in purchasing items from the HOW Trading Post will probably be able to pick them up in person at the HOW Conference on May 5th. Just contact the seller to make sure they will be there!

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.

RATTLEBOX® Is The Easy, Realistic Way To Rattle In Bucks

Dallas, PA: Mike Castner from Back Mountain Outdoor Products has developed a new product called the Rattlebox for serious deer hunters. The Rattlebox replicates the sounds made when two mature, full racked 120" class 8-point bucks lock antlers (unlike standard ½ racks from other companies). The Rattlebox is uniquely designed to be used with either hand and can be worn around the leg or attached to a tree and be used with minimal movement. The Rattlebox can also be regulated for light sparring to major fights.

“Rattling-in bucks has become a vital part of the hunting process utilized by successful, savvy hunters,” said Castner. “We developed the Rattlebox using a special polymer material and design that alters the size, shape, flexibility and thickness of material of each individual nodule in the Rattlebox. By engineering the materials

and design as we do, we are able to authentically replicate a full range of real antler tones. The authenticity of these tones was then tested and confirmed in a professional sound lab through a Frequency Spectrum Sound Analysis.”

“The Rattlebox is the only rattling product that can show this relationship to real antler sounds scientifically. It’s also the only rattling product with true one-hand operation. With the Rattlebox there is nothing to put down or away. If a buck runs in, you simply let it go and take your shot.”

The Rattlebox is guaranteed to sound more realistic and be easier to use than any rattling product available today or we will refund your money.

Rattlebox®: “If it doesn’t sound like real antlers how do you expect deer to come to it?”



For more information, contact Mike Castner at 570-674-5500. You may also check out their website at www.bmoproducts.com.

HOW Supporting Member News

Wright & McGill Partners With Rick Clunn

Denver, CO: The Wright & McGill Company recently announced a new partnership with Rick Clunn, the professional bass angler from Ava, Missouri. Rick has been fishing professionally for 37 years and was voted ESPN All-Time Greatest Bass Angler in 2004. With his expertise, he's the right match for Wright & McGill when it comes to selecting and designing bass rods to meet the competitive angler's demands.

Rick will be fishing with Wright & McGill Signature S-Curve and S-Glass bass rods and Victory reels. He currently has 4 Bassmaster Classic wins and 14 B.A.S.S. National Championship wins making him one of the highest money winners on the tournament trail.

"I am very excited to be part of the W&M team and look forward to fishing the very best rods on the market during 2012 and beyond," stated Rick.

Chris Russell, Marketing Director for Wright & McGill said, "Rick is the ultimate addition to the W&M team. With his years of experience and unmatched knowledge, Rick is the perfect pro to fish W&M rods and reels. He demands the very best in his fishing equipment and will not settle for products that do not live up to his requirements. Rick is also very in tune with what anglers and fans are looking for to help them be more successful out on the water. We are excited to have Rick fishing our S-Curve and S-Glass rods and performance reels and are looking forward to incorporating his knowledge into new items in the future."



For more information on Wright & McGill products, please visit www.wright-mcgill.com and you can also follow Wright & McGill on Facebook.

BoatUS Honors Towboat Captains For Heroism

Tampa, FL: BoatUS, the nation's largest association of recreational boaters, offers boat-owning fishermen a wide range of services. These include on-the-water breakdown and towing assistance provided by the largest fleet of towboats in North America, roadside boat trailer and tow vehicle assistance through 18,000 specialized towing companies, and fishing boat insurance that has the right coverage for anglers.

BoatUS also takes the time to honor their towboat captains. Towing captains are often thrust into the middle of life-threatening emergencies. BoatUS Towing Services recently honored five of its TowBoatUS captains for their heroic actions with its annual BoatUS "Woody Pollack Lifesaving Awards" at a ceremony that capped off the group's annual conference held in Tampa FL. The award is named after the well-respected towboat captain in the fleet who died at an early age.

"Sometimes the routine of normal day is interrupted by a life-threatening mayday call or an incident that unfolds in front of them, and our captains step in without hesitation," said BoatUS Vice President of Towing Services Jerry Cardarelli. "They are not in the rescue business, but their actions save others. We are very proud of them." Visit BoatUSAngler.com for details on these rescues.

Media contact: D. Scott Croft, 703-461-2864, SCroft@BoatUS.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.gamousa.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.mossyoak.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.toyotaneewsroom.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.wrangleruggedwear.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

- HOW 2012 Annual Conference:** May 4-6, 2012
(www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org)
The Star Plaza
Merrillville, IN
- AGLOW 2012 Spring Cast & Blast Event:** May 14-17, 2012
(www.aglowinfo.org)
Niagara County, NY
- OWAA 2012 Annual Conference:** September 4-6, 2012
(www.owaa.org)
Fairbanks, AK
- AGLOW 2012 Annual Conference:** September 17-20, 2012
(www.aglowinfo.org)
Chateau on the Lake
Branson, MO
- SHOT Show 2013:** January 15-18, 2013
(<http://shotshow.org>)
Las Vegas, NV

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.