

The Blade

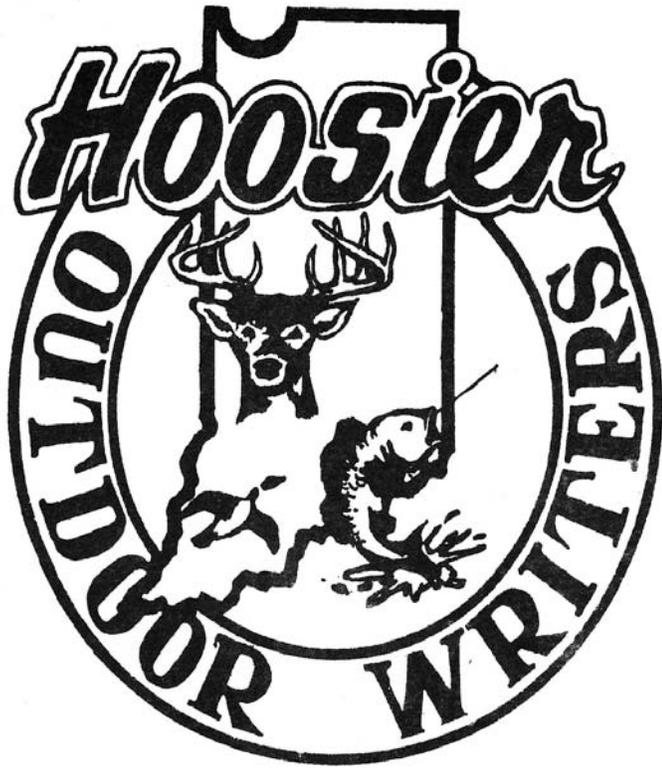
2012 Post-Conference Issue

May - June 2012

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Awesome HOW Lake Michigan Fishing Outing!" Photo courtesy of John Maxwell



Hoosier Outdoor Writers

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

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On the cover: *The HOW Lake Michigan Fishing Outing that followed the annual conference was great fun! Here HOW member John Maxwell lifts a trophy-sized lake trout he caught aboard Capt. Terry Paris' boat "Minnow". This was just one of 18 fish they caught! Photo courtesy John Maxwell.*



President's Message

by Josh Lantz

Rise up and shine

What a joy it was to see so many old friends and make new ones at the recent HOW Conference along Lake Michigan's south shore. E.D. Tom Berg and outgoing President Brandon Butler did an exceptional job in planning one of the best HOW conferences I can remember. The program and presenters were terrific. My hat is off to Tom, and I believe our organization is very fortunate to have him.

I'm excited and honored to serve as HOW's president during the coming year. As I stated in my brief remarks during the conference, I look forward to working with each of you to flush out new ways to improve our collective craft for the betterment of our precious natural resources and cherished outdoor traditions.

Our world is spinning faster than ever, and we have more media outlets at our disposal than ever before. These represent additional avenues for professional growth and additional opportunities for our kind and helpful voices to be heard.

What will our readers, viewers and listeners hear?

I encourage all of you to speak with thoughtful and unified voices when covering the important, if not critical, outdoor issues of these times – issues like land acquisition, hunter and angler access, and sportsmen's rights. We must work harder and do more than we have done in the past to appeal to Hoosiers who may not hunt, fish, trap, camp, bird, paddle or otherwise appreciate the natural world. The hard-earned American conservation story – which stands at a crossroads – demands it.

The U.S. Census Bureau classifies the vast majority of land in this country as rural, but says less than 20% of our population now lives there. Because we live in a democracy, urban voters and lawmakers are in an ever-increasing position of authority with respect to our rural lands, resources and policies. Is this what we want? Folks with no personal connection to things like dirt, rain, bluegill fillets, sandhill cranes, hellbenders and backstraps making decisions about how we use and conserve our natural resources? Of course not, but it is happening.

My single charge to fellow HOW members during the coming year is to seek out new avenues for your words, and to use those words to encourage your audience to engage our political candidates and elected officials like we've never done before. Because if they do not hear a cohesive voice from the people who use, value and appreciate our natural resources, they simply cannot represent them.

HOW is fortunate to have several members of the Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable and the Natural Resource Conservation Service among its ranks. Individuals in these groups must keep HOW informed of conservation threats and opportunities as they come up. And, of course, we as members of the outdoor media must help our readers, viewers and listeners to understand these issues so their own voices can be heard – at the dinner table, in the church basement and at the Statehouse.

Today is full and ripe with opportunity. You are my heroes. Write, broadcast, blog and shine for our precious natural resources.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

See page 28 for info
on membership changes,
new mailing addresses,
email addresses, etc.

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

Benefits of HOW Membership

Recently, someone asked why they should remain a HOW member. They asked: "What benefits does HOW provide for me?" Listed below are a few of the benefits that come to mind right away:

- HOW was formed in 1969 to bring together individuals and groups with a shared interest in the conservation and wise use of Indiana's natural resources. Since most of our members are outdoor writers, the focus was Indiana's natural resources and reporting on the wise use and enjoyment of those resources. Hopefully, members can enjoy the camaraderie of working with and associating with each other. As a group of professionals, we help the friends and fight the foes of wisely conserved Indiana resources.
- HOW [membership card](#) and press credentials allow entry to outdoor shows and similar functions.
- HOW maintains a [website \(www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org\)](http://www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org) where members may read or download the current newsletter, talk via our Facebook page, read archived issues of the newsletter, or find a link to each of our Supporting Members' websites.
- HOW publishes a bi-monthly [full-color newsletter](#) (6 issues per year), and distributes it electronically. In the past, it was emailed to members as a PDF file. Now it is posted on the website for members to read or download. It includes information about our Annual Conference, Awards-In-Craft contests, Member News, Supporting Member press releases, photo contests and a calendar of upcoming events of interest to the membership. The newsletter also includes a page in each issue with the web addresses of every Supporting Member.
- HOW publishes an [Annual Directory](#) which lists every Individual member and every Supporting member. A hardcopy is mailed to each member (and one representative Supporting member) every other year. When not printed, the Directory updates are listed on our website.
- HOW [Supporting members](#) have complete access to our membership list so they can contact our writers and broadcasters with new press releases and product information.
- HOW conducts an [Annual Conference](#) and all members are invited to attend (individuals and supporting members). Last year, the conference was at Turkey Run State Park in Parke County. This year, the conference was at The Star Plaza in northwest Indiana's Lake County. The conference includes many seminars, guest speakers and other activities. We gather for a HOW Fun Shoot (usually sporting clays or skeet) on the Friday before the annual meeting. On the Sunday following the meeting, we sponsor an outing featuring fishing, boating, hiking or some other activity. We also have our very popular Outdoor Products raffle at the conference, and all members and guests present may join in and have a chance of winning great outdoor products and prizes.
- HOW conducts an annual [Awards-in-Craft contest](#) for Individual members, including a Writing Contest, a Photography Contest and a Broadcast Contest. This contest recognizes the best writers, photographers & broadcasters in our group, and the winners typically receive cash prizes.
- HOW conducts a special ["Nature Photo" contest](#) in each issue of the newsletter for Individual members. A portion of a close-up photo of a creature that can be found in Indiana is shown, and the HOW member who guesses its identity can win a very nice prize. If more than one member gets the right answer, a winner is drawn at random from the pool of correct entries. Prizes range from \$100 gift cards to great outdoors products from our Supporting Members (like \$300 flyrods, \$225 binoculars, \$250 sunglasses, \$100 shooting equipment, etc).

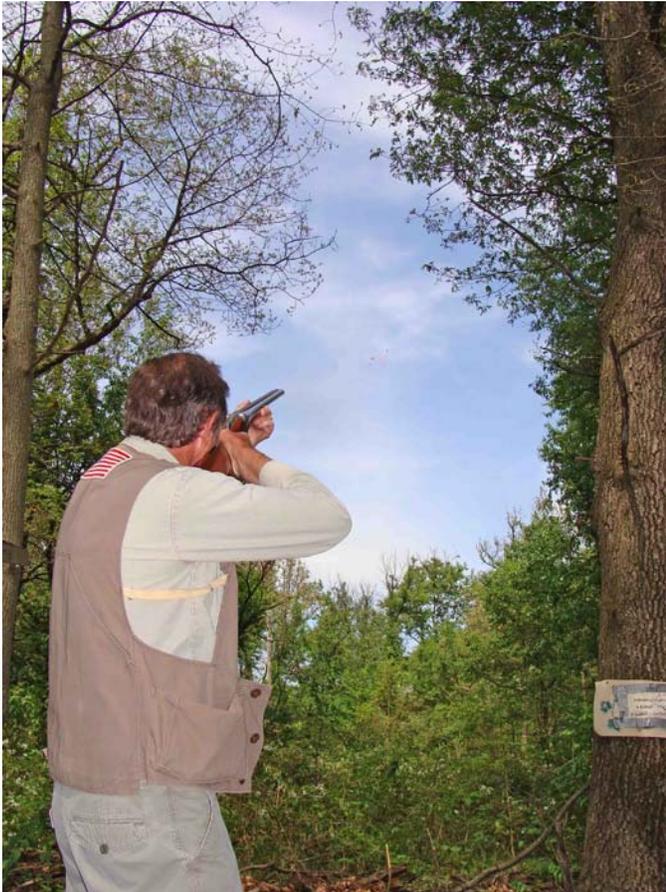
These are just some of the benefits of HOW membership. Your participation and involvement can result in so much more!

The Pre-Conference HOW Fun Shoot

Sporting Clays Excitement!

by Tom Berg

The annual HOW Fun Shoot has been the “unofficial” start of the HOW Conference now for many years. When the conference was held in Indianapolis in February to coincide with the Indy Boat, Sport and Travel Show, attendance was a bit sparse. After all, few but the most hardy or dedicated shooters were willing to brave the rain, snow and often bitterly cold temperatures to be found on a typical February morning in Indiana!



Bob Jennings takes a shot at one of his clay targets. If you look closely, you'll see that he hit the bright orange clay pigeon in the center of the photo. Photo by Tom Berg.

Now that the conference has been moved to the springtime months, however, the outing has become downright pleasant! First-time Fun Shoot attendees and HOW members who have not attended in recent years are discovering that a round of sporting clays before the conference is something not to be missed. This year's attendance was up and next time we are planning for even more shooters!

This year the conference was held in northwest Indiana, so the site chosen for the Fun Shoot was Oakwood Gun Club in Wheatfield. Located just off of Interstate 65, it was easy to find and the sporting clays course looked like it would meander through the woods and offer some challenging shots. It did!

The shooters divided into two groups before getting started. Those armed with 20-gauge shotguns made up the first group, and they were followed by the 12-gauge shooters. Barb Simpson, the Executive Director of the Indiana Wildlife Federation, recently joined HOW and this was her first Fun Shoot. She brought her trusty 20-gauge gun and she held her own among her group. She even outshot one of the 12-gauge

shooters, and she definitely had as much fun as everyone else!

The sporting clays course offered all kinds of shots, including double overhead shots, rabbits bouncing along the ground, cross-over shots and far-away shots that went straight up and then fell straight back down. Some of us found that one particularly difficult (me included)!

I was shooting with the 12-gauge crowd since I need all the help I can get. Halfway through the course, Bill Keaton was in the lead with a score of 43 out of 50. Don't let Bill kid you – he is always one of our top shooters! Mike Schoonveld (also one of our Top Guns) was next with a score of 39 and I was right behind him with 38.

(continued next page)

The final five stations in the course were Bill's downfall, however. He started having trouble, and although Mike and I were also struggling, we started gaining on him! Mike shot almost perfectly at the next station but then went 0-10 two stations later! By the time we finished station #8, Bill was leading by the thinnest of margins. Bill: 52, Mike: 51, Tom: 51.



In the final two stations, Bill's lead disappeared and Mike and I each averaged 6/10, so we ended the day with a score of 63 each. A tie!

That meant we needed a shoot-off! Mike and I each took four more shots at the last station (two doubles). Mike went first. First shot: Hit. Second shot: Hit. Third shot: Hit! Fourth shot: Miss! He said: "No pressure, Tom. You just have to hit every one of them to win!"

I stepped up and said "Pull!" On the first shot: Hit! Second shot: Hit! Third shot: Miss! Uh, oh. Fourth shot: Miss! I guess the pressure got to me! Mike Schoonveld was crowned the champ!

Remington® HOW would like to extend a big thank-you to Jessica Kallam from Freedom Group - Remington for supplying the ammunition for the shooters this year. We would also like to thank Oakwood Gun Club for allowing us to use their facility.



Barb Simpson takes aim at one of her targets. Photos by Tom Berg.

If you want to get in on the adventure next year (not to mention the fun shooting and great camaraderie), don't miss the 2013 HOW Fun Shoot! It's a real blast!



2012 HOW Conference Comes To Northern Indiana!

Something special happened this year. The 2012 HOW Conference was held in northwest Indiana – the first time it has ever been held north of Indianapolis! We had great attendance, great speakers and excellent activities. If you didn't attend this conference you really missed a great time! If you're not sure what you missed, check out the next few pages of the newsletter to get a glimpse of the fun we had!

The conference center at the Star Plaza in Merrillville, IN was perfect for the HOW meeting. The location was convenient and easy to find (I-65 and RT30), the meeting room was spacious and well-appointed, the catered food was spectacular and the hotel's staff was very helpful.

The conference events actually started at 1:00pm on Friday afternoon, when a group of HOW members met at the Oakwood Gun Club off of I-65 for the annual HOW Fun Shoot. The weather was perfect and the shooting and camaraderie was excellent. Details can be found on the previous two pages. After the shooting was done, we drove to the Star Plaza and joined more HOW members who were already gathering for the Friday evening Pizza Party!



A room full of HOW members gathered at the LCF&G clubhouse on Friday evening for a Chicago Style Pizza Party. We ate lots of pizza and learned a thing or two!

After the shooting was done, we drove to the Star Plaza and joined more HOW members who were already gathering for the Friday evening Pizza Party!

At 6:00pm on Friday evening, a total of 31 HOW members and guests converged on the clubhouse of the Lake County Fish & Game Protective Association (LCF&G) in Griffith for a Chicago Style Pizza Party. Brandon Butler brought a giant pile of pizzas from his favorite pizza joint – Tony's Pizza in Valparaiso. In short, the pizza was fantastic and we had time for some good old fashioned socializing. There were plenty of drinks in the coolers, too: water, soft drinks and a choice of adult beverages. A few tall tales were told and a good time was had by all!

When everyone had their fill of pizza, Don Jones from LCF&G got up and made a presentation about the conservation club. Lake County Fish & Game Protective Association is the oldest conservation club in the state of Indiana, and they sponsor and participate in a wide range of conservation projects every year. They also encourage youth and family participation in the outdoor sports. After the presentation, we took a nice tour of the club's grounds. A big thank-you goes to LCF&G for their hospitality!



The annual meeting began at 8:00am on Saturday morning, and more than 40 HOW members and guests assembled in the main meeting room. The first hour of the meeting was set aside for registration and social time, and a simple continental breakfast along with coffee and juice was available for all present. At the registration table, conference attendees were provided with welcome bags compliments of Howard Communications, complete with goodies from Alpen Optics, Aquateko International, Birchwood Casey, BoatUS Angler, Hoppe's and the National Shooting Sports Foundation. The South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority (CVA) and Dunes Tourism also provided welcome bags filled with info and local attractions.

While members talked and got ready for the day's events, the HOW Board of Directors and Executive Committee conducted their annual board meeting. Among other things, it was agreed that HOW would present the 2012 Bayou Bill Scifres Stewardship Award to the Lake County Fish & Game Protective Association where we visited Friday night.

At 9:00am, outgoing President Brandon Butler called the meeting to order and provided opening remarks, then briefed the meeting attendees on the day's schedule. Speros Batistatos from the South Shore CVA also greeted the membership and welcomed them to Lake County. Since the conference theme this year was "Explore Lake Michigan", he talked about some of the interesting things to discover, see and do along Lake Michigan's south shore. He also talked about what has been happening in the area recently, including the story about the Everglades of the North: The Grand Kankakee Marsh.



Speros Batistatos from the South Shore CVA speaks to the conference attendees.

The first formal presentation of the meeting was delivered by Brandt Baughman, the property manager at Dunes State Park. He gave a very interesting talk about the Dunes and some of the major projects that have been completed in the park over the past few years. Two of the projects that he described were the AlgaeWheel Waste Water Treatment Plant and the award-winning Daylighting of Dunes Creek project.



Presentation #2 was conducted by full-time fishing guide Kevin Morlock from Indigo Guide Service. He discussed Lake Michigan tributary fishing for salmon and steelhead at different times of the year.

Kevin was an excellent speaker and he had a very entertaining slide presentation. He discussed fishing tips, methods, techniques and gear, along with suggestions for how to read water and catch more fish.

Near the end of his presentation, he gave us some excellent insight on how writers, photographers and broadcasters can work with fishing guides successfully, so that both parties benefit in the end.

Prior to breaking for lunch, outgoing President Butler called the HOW Business Meeting to order. HOW Nominating Chairman John Martino presented the proposed slate of new officers for the coming year. Josh Lantz was elected President, Ben Shadley was elected Vice-President and Brandon Butler will become the Board Chairman. Our new Board members (terms expiring in 2014) include: Jon Marshall, Jack Spaulding, Gary Redmon, Alan Smith and Brent Wheat. Thank you to all of our new volunteers!

Before the Business Meeting was concluded, incoming President Josh Lantz took the podium and gave a short speech. Then he made a formal presentation of the Bass Pro Shops "Pass It On" Award. This year's recipient was John Martino from Kokomo. Josh presented an award plaque to John, along with a specially-engraved hunting knife to commemorate the occasion. The knife was generously provided and engraved by our friends at Buck Knives.

John was more than a little surprised, but he shouldn't have been. John has been volunteering his time with the youth of Kokomo through the Jim "Moose" Carden Kokomo Kids Fishing Clinic for decades. A special thank-you goes to Katie Mitchell and Bass Pro Shops for sponsoring the Pass It On award.

A truly amazing Italian buffet lunch was served by the Star Plaza staff, and more than one HOW member commented that this was the best meal ever served at a HOW conference! It was pretty hard to argue since we had shrimp scampi, chicken vesuvio with roasted potatoes, jumbo meatballs with pasta, tomato basil pastina, cheese tortellini with roasted garlic alfredo, Italian-style squash with tomatoes, Caesar salad and warm herb breadsticks.



HOW President Josh Lantz presented John Martino with the Bass Pro Shops "Pass It On" Award for his tireless work with Kokomo's youth through the Kokomo Kids Fishing Clinic. Photo by John Maxwell.

For dessert there was ricotta cheesecake with fresh berries and tiramisu. Wow! What a feast!!



HOW President Josh Lantz (left) shares a laugh after lunch with seminar speaker Kevin Morelock (center) and HOW Vice President Ben Shadley (right). Tom Berg photo.

At 12:30pm, the next seminar speaker was scheduled to be Dave Meuninck, Manager of Bodine State Fish Hatchery in Mishawaka. Dave gave a very interesting presentation on Indiana's fish hatcheries (Bodine, specifically) and the Lake Michigan salmon and trout stocking program. He went into detail on what it takes to produce salmon and trout for stocking the lake and its tributaries. That means more fish for us to catch!

Following Dave Meuninck's presentation, Josh Lantz and Tom Berg made the 2012 HOW Awards-In-Craft presentation. Cash prizes and certificates were awarded to the best of the best in

the Writing Contest, the Photography Contest and the Broadcast Contest. Many thanks go to Toyota Motor Sales for once again sponsoring our contests and recognizing the achievements of our members. Check the contest results on pages 19-20 to see who submitted the best work this year.



Fishing guide Kevin Morlock talks about fishing for salmon and trout. Tom Berg photo.

Before our final seminar, we took a few minutes to go over boat assignments for everyone who had signed-up for the Sunday Fishing Outing on Lake Michigan. Believe it or not, 18 people were ready and willing to hit the lake first thing in the morning, and we had five fully-equipped boats ready to take them. The weather looked a little tentative because of wind, but the captains were confident the waves would subside overnight and we would be able to fish. Be sure to look at pages 13-16 to see how the anglers did out on the Big Lake!

The final conference presentation of the day was led by veteran Lake Michigan charter Captain Doug Iliff from Anglers Adventure Fishing Charters. Doug was busy running a salmon charter during the morning, so we appreciated him making the trip to the Star Plaza as soon as he got off the water. He gave us a fishing report from his morning trip, then discussed some of the finer points of trolling Lake Michigan for salmon and trout.

Besides talking about some of the gear that he uses to catch Great Lakes fish, Doug also gave us some insight on some of his tactics for finding fish out in the expanses of Lake Michigan. Of course, once you find the fish you have to make them bite, so gear and tactics are often intertwined. Hopefully the HOW members who were planning to fish on Sunday took some notes from his talk!

As usual, the final activity of the day was the annual HOW Raffle. For many HOW members, this is always the most anticipated event of the day! Raffle chairman Tom Berg organized another amazing event again this year, easily filling several banquet tables with awesome outdoor products from our loyal Supporting Members (and many new members). Although he did not break last year's record of 94 contributing companies, he did secure product and service donations from a very impressive 86 individuals, companies and organizations this year. Tom would like to thank Rich Creason for his help in securing some of the items, and in particular with obtaining the cool hand-carved walking stick from Bundy and Company.



As is typical for the raffle, some companies donated major products and others contributed smaller items, but all were much-appreciated. Thanks also goes to Alan and Dianna Garbers, Eric Stallsmith, Jarrett Manek and others for their help in unpacking and displaying the raffle items on the tables on the morning of the meeting. The HOW Raffle entails hours and hours of work - it really is a huge job!



As soon as we announced that raffle tickets were available for sale, a huge line formed that almost brought a tear to the eyes of our Raffle Master Jack Spaulding. Indeed, Jack and several of his helpers were hard-pressed to keep up with demand. The fact that we had plenty of great items to raffle off made it very easy for them to sell tickets, too. Some HOW members were very sneaky and bought some tickets early and then again later, in an attempt to infiltrate their tickets throughout the over-sized punch bowl where the ticket stubs were deposited.

Other HOW members tried to overwhelm the competition with sheer numbers, and bought 100 tickets each (or more). They figured THAT was a sure-fire way to win the best prizes! In the end, most people won their share of the prizes and Spaulding and Associates sold enough tickets to make a possum grin.

Firearms enthusiasts were especially happy with this year's raffle prizes, as we had 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 was also an awesome Horton crossbow with scope and a certificate for a Savage rifle of the winner's choice at a great discount.



Jack Spaulding was once again our ace Raffle Master! Photo by John Maxwell.

Fishermen in the crowd were wowed by a dazzling array of fishing rods, fishing reels, Great Lakes trolling gear and lures of all shapes, sizes and colors. There was also lots of icefishing tackle, including icefishing rod/reel combos, tipups and icefishing lures. There was an abundance of shooting supplies, a great assortment of ammunition, gun cases, targets, premium sunglasses, hunting gear, hats, gloves, waterproof binoculars, spotting scopes, knives, boat-care products, tents, camping gear, gift certificates, tackle boxes, a lure-making kit and a top-quality gun vise system. There was 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, hunting broadheads and lots of other archery gear.



Our Raffle Chairman did a great job securing and storing the raffle items over the past few months, but Jack really outdid himself selling tickets this year. The 2012 raffle was another huge success!

Of course, without the support and generosity of our Supporting Members the raffle would not happen at all.

For a complete list of this year's raffle donors, please see page 17. Please support them in your work whenever possible, and send them a thank-you note when you get a chance.

A Spectacular HOW Fishing Outing!!

The HOW Fishing Outing that followed the recent conference was a great success. The weather was pretty good, everyone caught fish and the thunderstorms waited until all the boats were off the water. That's always a bonus!

Out of all the boats, Capt. Terry Paris aboard his boat *Minnow* was the Top Dog on the lake during the fishing outing. The HOW members fishing with him were John Maxwell, Dave Hoffman and Jarrett Manek. A photo of John Maxwell's big lake trout is on the cover of this issue (and below).

Here are a few comments from some of the fishermen that participated in the outing:

Jarrett Manek:

I had a great trip. I fixed up some fresh salmon on the grill "in the rain" after I got home; Jennifer actually liked it and the kids only tasted it, but said it was good!

John Maxwell:

The Lake Michigan Eighteen, Eighteen, Eighteen.

"Eighteen miles out, eighteen fish in the box, and one of them was eighteen pounds." David Hoffman, Jarrett Manek and I had a wonderful fishing trip on Lake Michigan with Captain Terry Paris and First Mate Keith aboard Terry's boat the *Minnow*. About an hour after sunrise, we headed northeast out of Buffington Harbor into some pleasant Illinois waters. It seemed sort of strange to me to be motoring in an easterly direction to reach Illinois.

About 18 miles out, we set a bunch of trolling lines pulling spoons. We had several flat lines, some spoons trailing downriggers maybe 60 feet down, and some spoons spread out behind planer boards. We soon began catching king salmon, lake trout and small coho salmon. David boated a nice king. Jarrett caught his first-ever lake trout, and I boated an 18-pound lake trout, by far the largest fish I have ever caught from Lake Michigan.

After several hours of fair-to-steady action on the lines and fair-to-steady bantering and conversation, we had caught our limit of lake trout.



To avoid subsequent lake trout, we raised the deepest lines to a 30-foot depth, and still were hooking and releasing lake trout. So we raised all the lines up to near the surface, and we were still hooking and releasing lake trout. We could not keep the brown bombers off the lines! Around noon, to avoid looming storms over the Wisconsin horizon, and to avoid hooking more attacking lake trout, we headed back to port with a box full of 18 keeper fish. What a day!

Alan Garbers:

We enjoyed our trip on Tim Morris' charterboat *Just 4 Fun*. While fishing was tough, everyone put fish in the cooler. *Just 4 Fun* was large enough to lessen the wave action and have plenty of room to fight the fish. The king salmon hit like a freight train and made my hands cramp fighting it! That evening I cut part of the king salmon up sushi-style and dipped it in soy sauce and wasabi. It doesn't get any fresher than that!



Rich Creason:

On Sunday following the HOW conference, my wife Susie and I along with Alan and Dianna Garbers and Mike Ratter boarded the boat *Just 4 Fun* with Captain Tim Morris (see above left). We had been out with Tim on other occasions and always had a great time.

This time the sun was shining, the boat was gently rocking, and a nice breeze washed across us. The only bad part was someone kept interrupting my nap by hollering, "Fish On!"

Dean Farr:

Great event, great fun, great fishing and great company!

The photo on the next page shows my son Greg and Josh Lantz holding Greg's biggest fish, a 13½ pound chinook salmon. Greg also caught a smaller one of about 6 pounds. I caught a couple of fish, too (at right). We had three others on but...that is fishing!





Josh Lantz:

Dean Farr and his son Greg (at left) caught some nice fish on the outing and they had fun.

Highlights were Greg's nice-sized king and Dean's double. Dean hooked a 5-pound lake trout on the main lure and a nice coho on the slider rig on the same rod at the same time! One rod – two fish!! It's always fun to scoop two fish in the net at the same time, too!

Brandon Butler:

It was so cool to cap off an awesome Hoosier Outdoor Writers conference in Lake County with a trip out on the big lake. Even though I grew up in Lake County, I had never before fished off-shore with downriggers for salmon and steelhead. We didn't tear them up, but we landed a few fish. I was happy to take the filets back to Missouri and put them in my smoker. Fresh smoked salmon from Indiana. Alaska has nothing on us. Well...maybe a few things.

Our captain Greg Allen was a great guy who extended us the finest of hospitality. He was not a professional guide, just a fisherman friend of Mike Schoonveld who was willing to share his boat and knowledge with us. A big tip of the hat to him.

I have to send a great big thank you out to my good buddy "Paddle Don" Cranfill for leaving his sea legs back on the dock. Eric Stallsmith and I sure appreciate you letting us catch all the fish!



Tom Berg:

Capt. Mike Schoonveld on his boat *Brother Nature* did a great job and found plenty of fish to keep everyone busy! Bill Keaton (at left), Nate Mullendore (below right) and I had steady action all morning with nice-sized chinook and coho salmon.

The lake didn't get too rough, the fish cooperated and the dark clouds that continued to gather in the west held off until we were long gone. No one likes to fish during a thunderstorm!



For the bird watchers in the crowd, a female red-winged blackbird (we think that's what it was) spotted our boat out in the offshore expanses of the lake and circled us until she became brave enough to land on one of our downrigger rods. We thought she was going to drop into the water from exhaustion before she got the nerve to land, but she finally made it. After a brief rest, she flew off and landed on Josh Lantz's boat!



Photo credits: Fishing outing photos were supplied by Tom Berg, Brandon Butler, Rich Creason, Dean Farr, Alan Garbers, Jarrett Manek and John Maxwell. Thanks to all!



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The HOW 2012 Awards-In-Craft Contest

The results are in! The winners of the 2012 Awards-In-Craft contest were announced at this year's annual conference at the Star Plaza in Merrillville, IN, and we had many excellent entries. As usual, the writing portion of the contest garnered the most interest, as HOW members submitted a total of 53 entries from eight different HOW members. The photography contest included 33 entries from six HOW members, and the Broadcast contest featured two entries from two HOW members. Writing and Photo entries were required to be submitted electronically again this year, and it went very well. Next year we hope to have even more participation!

Once again this year the Awards-In-Craft contest was sponsored by Toyota Motor Sales, so the winners were awarded checks along with certificates to commemorate their achievements. We would like to thank Toyota for their generous sponsorship in 2012. HOW members are encouraged to logon to the Toyota website (www.toyotanewsroom.com) to find out more about their products and recent news releases.

A special thank-you also goes to our contest coordinators who donated their time and energy to secure judges and get each of the entries reviewed and scored in time for the annual conference. Dealing with a large number of submissions which are typically sent right before the deadline makes coordinating the entries/judges difficult, but this year's online submission rules definitely helped! The 2012 Awards-In-Craft coordinators were: Eric Stallsmith (Writing), John Martino (Photography) and Tom Berg (Broadcast).

Here is a complete list of the winners (along with the number of entries for each contest):

WRITING (total of 53 entries from 8 HOW members)

Less Than 1000 Words

Hunting/Trapping

- 1st: John Martino, "Answering the Call,
Both Indoors and Out"
- 2nd: John Martino, "Special Kids Receive
Special Weekend"
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "Coyote Triple Play!"

Fishing

- 1st: Tom Berg, "Lake Michigan's Salmon
and Trout Boom"
- 2nd: John Martino, "Portable Sonars Are Boon
To Hardwater Anglers"
- 3rd: Jack Spaulding, "Top Angler"

More Than 1000 Words

Hunting/Trapping

- 1st: Mike Schoonveld, "Selling Your Furs"
- 2nd: Mike Schoonveld, "Dirt Holes Work"
- 3rd: Alan Garbers, "Ten Reasons You Should Be
Hunting An Upland Preserve"

Fishing

- 1st: Tom Berg, "The Salmon of September"
- 2nd: Tom Berg, "Strategies For Hardwater
Crappies"
- 3rd: Alan Garbers, "Flats Fishing The South
Shore of Lake Superior"

(Continued on next page)

Less Than 1000 Words

Conservation

- 1st: Jack Spaulding, "DNR Black Operations"
- 2nd: John Martino, "Flowing Waters and
Issues of Legality"
- 3rd: P.J. Perea, "Garlic Mustard"

General Outdoors

- 1st: John Martino, "Some Memories
Last Forever"
- 2nd: Jack Spaulding, "Moby Koi – The Great
White Carp"
- 3rd: Jack Spaulding, "Deadly White-Nose
Syndrome Hits Indiana Bats"

More Than 1000 Words

Conservation

- 1st: Alan Garbers, "The Tale of Two Hunts"
- 2nd: Lisa Metheny, "Mighty Giants To The Rescue"
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "Lake Invaders – Unwanted
Exotics"

General Outdoors

- 1st: Mike Schoonveld, "Salmon In The Can"
- 2nd: Alan Garbers, "Ten Reasons You Should Be
Shooting An MSR"
- 3rd: Alan Garbers, "White River Cranking"

PHOTOGRAPHY (total of 33 entries from 6 HOW members)

Hunting/Trapping

- 1st: Alan Garbers, "Ashland Bird Hunt"
- 2nd: Alan Garbers, "Upland Hunting"
- 3rd: John Maxwell, "Whitetail Following
Scent Trail"

Outdoor Scenic

- 1st: John Maxwell, "Lincoln Lake"
- 2nd: P.J. Perea, "Bike To Your Bird"
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "Hidden Canyon At
Turkey Run State Park"

Fishing

- 1st: Mike Schoonveld, "First Fish"
- 2nd: John Maxwell, "Catching Jumping Asian Carp"
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "Fall-Run Coho Salmon"

Outdoor Recreation

- 1st: P.J. Perea, "Shooting For The Future"
- 2nd: John Maxwell, "Chain O'Lakes
Spring Canoeing"
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "Sugar Creek Canoe Trip"

BROADCAST (total of 2 entries from 2 HOW members)

Best TV Broadcast

- 1st: Evie Kirkwood, "Outdoor Elements – Fins
and Feathers"
- 2nd: -- No Entry --
- 3rd: -- No Entry --

Best Video

- 1st: John Maxwell, "Shades State Park"
- 2nd: -- No Entry --
- 3rd: -- No Entry --

2.7 Seconds On A Bull Named Fu Man Chu

by Patrick McCune

The title above is taken from the lyrics of a Tim McGraw song titled: *Live Like You Were Dying*. The song is about him going through a life experience in which he begins to see things differently. He takes some chances and creates a little list of things that most people only dream about doing. He makes a point to start living his life. The last few years have been an eye-opener for me and this song caught my attention. Several things in my life changed and I ended up very sad and a bit depressed by the changes that took place.



The last few years have been an eye-opener for me and this song caught my attention. Several things in my life changed and I ended up very sad and a bit depressed by the changes that took place.

After working hard at a job that I liked but did not love, going through a painful divorce and missing my children, I decided to re-evaluate my life. What makes me tick? What was I missing out on out there? After a lot of discussion and careful planning I decided to make a move and head west to a dream that I have had since I was younger. It was time for me to have an adventure and start living. The west was calling me. Riding horses, working with my hands and meeting people have always been there in my heart but circumstances only allowed me to experience a portion of that need that I had growing inside of me.

I began to research Guest Ranches (or Dude Ranches as they are commonly known). I found a person online that had done something similar in her life. I reached out to her and she walked me through what I needed to do in order to make my dream come true. Her advice included: “Jump and the net will appear”. I followed her teachings and began to contact ranches located in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and even Ohio and North Carolina. One in particular caught my eye: Laramie River Ranch. It is located in the northern part of Colorado, very close to the Wyoming border. In fact, they use a Wyoming mailing address.

I sent a resume and then contacted the Ranch Manager, Brian. We had a wonderful conversation and LRR offered me everything I was looking for. It is small enough that I can learn from the best teachers in the business and yet large enough for me to experience much more than just riding. We set up an interview and I began to prepare. My background is in Human Resources and I am great with people. I had learned to cook and bake from my father and mother and the Boy Scouts, so the best place for me at the ranch was in the kitchen. I was offered a job for the summer as a prep cook and I accepted on the spot.

In late May, I began to make my trek from Indiana to Colorado with anticipation and a lot of scary thoughts going through my head. When I arrived, any worries I had flew out the window. I met with Brian and later with the owners, Bill and Krista Burleigh. They are all wonderful people and have made me feel very much at home. I have never worked in the food or hospitality industry and I knew that I had a lot to learn. The ranch is located on the Laramie River and has the most

spectacular views I have ever seen. I wake up every morning to the sights of huge mountains and the sound of horses being driven in from their grazing pastures.

We cater to about 30 guests each week and they are the most wonderful people in the world to get to know. The hours are long and the work is very hard. But the days go by fast and it is truly rewarding work. I get to touch their lives as much as they touch mine. I am 40 years old and work with 17 other employees about half my age on average. While I was concerned about fitting in they have all made me feel very welcome and we share a lot of adventures together. This working family



is one to be proud of and I have nothing but great things to say about each of them. They care about the guests and their jobs and go out of their way to make everyone that visits here welcome.

In my spare time I continue to take photographs and build upon my personal experiences. Each day brings something new. Riding horses, taking hikes, visiting national forests and some of the best trout fishing in the world are all right at my doorstep. This adventure is one of many I hope to have in my new life. Yet to come are Alaska and Ireland and anywhere else I decide to visit. There are amazing people in this world and for a country boy with a big heart I am excited about traveling to many places and making even more friends.

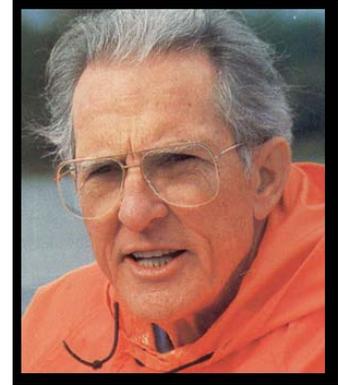
If you get the urge to ride or just want to see some of this country's amazing landscape, I highly recommend Laramie River Ranch as the place to start. Bill, Krista and Brian will make sure you have the time of your life. You might even be lucky enough to taste one of my special cookies, bread pudding or other delightful treats that we cook up here.

Bottom line is this: stop putting off the adventure that you have growing in your heart, whatever it may be. I would also like to thank a very special friend for giving me the courage to try this. Her wisdom and caring attitude have changed my way of thinking and I owe her so much. Get out there and find your bull to ride. Fu Man Chu is not as scary as he might sound.



THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

“Uncle” Homer E. Circle, Legendary Outdoor Communicator
September 21, 1914 – June 23, 2012



Ocala, FL – “Uncle” Homer E. Circle, age 97, died on June 23, 2012. A member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America since 1946, Circle was perhaps best known to many as the long-time fishing editor for Sports Afield magazine, serving in that role from 1968 through 2002. He authored numerous books on bass fishing, the last of which was “Bass Wisdom” (2000). He was a host of television fishing programs, such as “The Fisherman,” “Sports Afield” and “The Outdoorsman,” and he starred in two fishing films, Bigmouth and Bigmouth Forever.

“His is a remarkable life, with simple beginnings. While fresh out of high school, he took a job as a salesman in an outdoor store in Ohio. For the next eight years, he had the chance to see and use every new hook, line and sinker that was introduced to the market,” friend Jay Cassell said in an article about Circle.

“One day an editor for the Springfield Daily News came into the outdoor store where Circle worked and asked him if he knew anybody who could write authoritatively about fishing. Knowing he was the best-qualified person for the job, Circle volunteered himself and was hired.”

“The tackle industry was still in its infancy then. Not willing to limit his fishing to lures sold on the market, Circle decided to make his own instead. The result was a plug, which he called The Walnut Crab. It worked so well that he took it to the president of Heddon fishing tackle, and declared he would match his lure against any lure Heddon had to offer.”

“Heddon didn’t buy the lure – but they wisely hired Circle as the vice president of advertising and public relations, both for Heddon and the Daisy BB Gun Company, the parent company. In 1964, Circle began freelancing fishing articles to Sports Afield magazine.”

The former president of OWAA (1967-68), Circle has received countless writing awards. He was inducted into the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame in 1981, the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame in 2001 and the IGFA Hall of Fame in 2007. He was also the recipient of the American Sportfishing Association Lifetime Achievement Award in 1996.

He is survived by his daughter, Judy McCormack, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Gayle. They were married for 70 years by the time she died in 2007. The family plans a private service for him, according to his granddaughter, Beth Costantino.

As a way of remembering him, friends and supporters are encouraged to send notes about ways he touched their lives to info@owaa.org with “Uncle Homer” as the subject line. Emails will be forwarded to family members.

Obituary content courtesy of OWAA Executive Director Robin Giner and compiled from OWAA archives, Bassmaster, Jim Shepard of The Outdoor Wire and Nooga.com.

HOW Member News



Brandon Butler Co-Chairs *Hunting Works For Missouri*

HOW Chairman of the Board Brandon Butler is helping to lead a new organization that helps illustrate the role that the hunting and shooting sports play in the heritage and economic health of his home state. *Hunting Works for Missouri* exists to promote the strong economic partnership between the hunting and shooting communities and the local economy of Missouri.

“The *Hunting Works For Missouri* partners have joined this effort because they understand that hunting plays an important role in our economy and our heritage,” said Brandon Butler, *Hunting Works For Missouri* co-chair and owner of the publication *Driftwood Outdoors*. “Through the Pittman-Robertson Act, hunters pay an 11-percent excise tax on equipment. This money is used to conserve and restore habitat which benefits game and non-game species as well as anyone who loves the outdoors. But many people don’t always understand that the bulk of the money that pays for wildlife areas comes from hunters. Hunters are just as deeply concerned with conservation as anyone else, which is why I am so pleased to be a co-chair of this organization and help educate and spread the word that everyone sees a benefit from a robust hunting and shooting industry in Missouri.”

Butler also said that the group believes communication is very important. Hunters and shooters face an ever-increasing number of challenges today. Public policy decisions that impact hunting and shooting ultimately impact Missouri’s jobs. *Hunting Works for Missouri* serves as a vehicle to facilitate this important public policy dialogue and to tell the story about preservation, conservation and jobs. Visit www.huntingworksformo.com to learn more.



Ray McCune’s Grandson Becomes Eagle Scout

Raymond A. McCune, Grandson of long-time HOW member and scout leader Ray L. McCune, was recently awarded the rank of Eagle Scout from the Boy Scouts of America.

The Court of Honor was held on May 20th in Fort Wayne. Only about 2% of boy scouts ever attain the rank of Eagle Scout, so Raymond’s accomplishment is one to be proud of. He was also a member of scouting’s Order of the Arrow (shown here 2nd from left).



HOW Members Flock To AGLOW Cast & Blast

Several HOW members recently attended the popular Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers event called “Cast & Blast” in Lewiston, New York. Those HOW members included Brent Wheat, Brandon Butler, Josh Lantz, Mike Schoonveld, Rich Creason, PJ Perea and Brian Smith, and from all reports they had a great time! Here are some photos and short thoughts from some of them:

Mike Schoonveld: AGLOW held their 3rd Annual Spring Cast and Blast in New York from May 14 to 17th. The concept of the C&B is simple. Roughly two dozen outdoor communicators show up at a pre-determined site and are divided into turkey hunters and fisher people. Each group is paired up with guides from the local area and teamed up with corporate members for hands on experience with the fishing and hunting opportunities in the area and both the new and tried-and-true products from the corporate members.



Mike Schoonveld lifts a great NY smallmouth bass. Photo courtesy of Mike Schoonveld.

The result is each writer heading home with a pocketful of stories and a head full of memories, gathered in some of the best hunting and fishing areas in the country.

Fishing opportunities included salmon fishing in Lake Ontario, smallmouth bass fishing in Lake Erie, fishing the Niagara River upstream from Lewiston at the end of the rapids below Niagara Falls or downstream where the mighty river flows into Lake Ontario. The hunters spread out across the western New York countryside on select private and public lands to work the big birds.

There’s always more to a destination than the hunting and fishing opportunities, too. Sure, Niagara Falls is a world renowned tourist stop, but I was much more impressed with a late afternoon visit to the fully restored Fort Niagara. It was first built in 1734 and occupied both by the French and British in pre-revolutionary days and subsequently by the United States after the war of 1812. Interpreters were on hand to bring the history to life.

PJ Perea: It's in the Hole! Normally, getting sent to the hole is a bad thing – unless you are fishing the "Hole" in the Lower Niagara River. The great people at www.niagara-usa.com, Bill Hilts, Jr. and Elizabeth Davis put us on a fishing hole where every cast has the potential to hook a bucket list fish. Take your pick, smallmouth bass up to 7 pounds, king salmon up to 25 pounds, lake trout up to 30 pounds, rainbow trout up to 20 pounds and the list goes on depending on the time of year.

If you want a more relaxed pace of fishing, take a ride with Bob Cinelli on his 36-foot boat on Lake Ontario. Bob and his crew regularly finishes in the top 10 in just about every contest they enter for king salmon, coho salmon, lake trout and rainbow trout.



PJ with another great smallmouth bass. Photo courtesy of PJ Perea.

Brandon Butler: The AGLOW Cast & Blast in Niagara County, New York was an absolutely incredible event. Personally, I caught smallmouth, steelhead and perch. Other attendees caught salmon, too. I spent most of my time turkey hunting, and even though I didn't kill one during the Cast & Blast, I did take advantage of a post-trip and shot a nice bird in Chautauqua County.

The AGLOW Cast & Blasts are to me the most valuable writer's event of the year. The whole experience is about going out and actually hunting and fishing. We use our sponsor's products and we experience unique outdoor destinations around the Great Lakes Region. I hope to attend the Cast & Blast every year.



Brandon Butler with a nice NY smallmouth bass and a hefty Chautauqua County gobbler taken after the Cast & Blast. Photos courtesy of Brandon Butler.

Brent T. Wheat: Smallmouth bass fishing in western New York is GREAT!!!! Please note that I did show some restraint by utilizing all-caps on only one word and a mere four exclamation points. Let me explain.

I joined several HOW members and about 30 other outdoor professionals at this year's AGLOW Spring Cast and Blast. This was the first such Cast & Blast for this correspondent and it far surpassed my already-high expectations.



Brent Wheat and his trophy-sized smallmouth. Wow!!!
Photo courtesy of Brent Wheat.

Before proceeding, we must offer an obligatory tip of the fishing hat to Josh Lantz, HOW member and AGLOW Executive Director, for a well-organized, smoothly-run event. Watching Josh deftly keep a pack of querulous writers, guides and sponsors moving simultaneously in fifteen different directions makes herding cats seem easy.

The list of activities during the event would fill an entire page. From our excellent accommodations at the Barton Hill Hotel & Spa, to turkey hunting, all manner of fishing trips and a private, after-hours tour of Fort Niagara, every moment was filled with interesting activities, great fellowship and even better food.

For the sake of keeping this short, I'll only talk about the smallmouth bass fishing. Ignoring for a moment the abundant salmon and steelhead that challenged the group, we learned why the smallmouth fishing in the eastern end of Lake Erie and in the Niagara River below the famous falls is certainly considered world-class.

On our last day, Your Faithful Servant boated untold numbers of fat, feisty brown fish, most of which were in the 3+ pound range. One monster we landed in the Niagara River certainly went at least five pounds, while our guide Darrin Schewenkbeck judged it closer to six. Unfortunately, you cannot take time to weigh fish in Devil's Hole on the Niagara River or your boat will be swept into a maelstrom of rapids and you die. Maybe, anyway. Of course, it might be a small price to pay for that kind of smallmouth fishing.

If you want to write a great story about smallmouth bass fishing, contact Bill Hilts, Jr. at the Niagara Tourism and Convention Corporation. It is obvious that the friendly folks at Niagara-USA love to spread the word about their area's incredible outdoor resources. And why shouldn't they? After all, "it's to die for."

Rich Creason: In the middle of May I was honored with being one of the outdoor writers invited to spend three days in and around Lewiston, New York, just a few miles from Niagara Falls. The writers were picked from the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers membership, and we would be fishing Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, and the lower Niagara River.

On the first fishing trip, our guide was Steve Drabczyk (www.drab6fishing.com, 716-807-6248). We fished the lower Niagara River for salmon, lake trout, smallmouth bass, steelhead, and anything else that would grab our lures. As it turned out, some steelhead and an occasional king salmon were being netted in the boats around us, but the 3-pound smallmouth bass were beating every other species to our bait. Still, they gave us a great fight in the heavy current.



Rich Creason with Niagara lake trout.

One afternoon was spent with the event sponsors and learning about their new products. Representatives from Frabill, MarCum Technologies, Rapala, Shimano, Carbon X Rods, Mossy Oak, Howard Communications, National Wild Turkey Federation, Quaker Boy, ThermaCELL and others were present. Hobie Kayaks had seven or eight of their kayaks on display, too. These watercraft are pedaled instead of paddled, leaving both hands free for fishing, picture taking, etc.



Rich Creason fishing aboard the Hobie Kayak. Photos on this page courtesy of Rich Creason.

On another fishing outing, nearly every fish we brought to the net was a scrappy smallmouth. That is, until I boated a 9-pound lake trout! After fishing, we boarded a bus to nearby Fort Niagara. This is a cool historic site on the banks of the Niagara River.

Of course, I don't think it's even legal to come to this area without visiting Niagara Falls. The Maid of the Mist boat ride is also a requirement – they take you close enough to the falls for the mist to completely soak you!

Josh Lantz Recovers From Cast & Blast

Josh Lantz, HOW's new President and AGLOW's Executive Director – is probably still recovering from the stress of organizing the AGLOW Cast & Blast. But it was worth it.



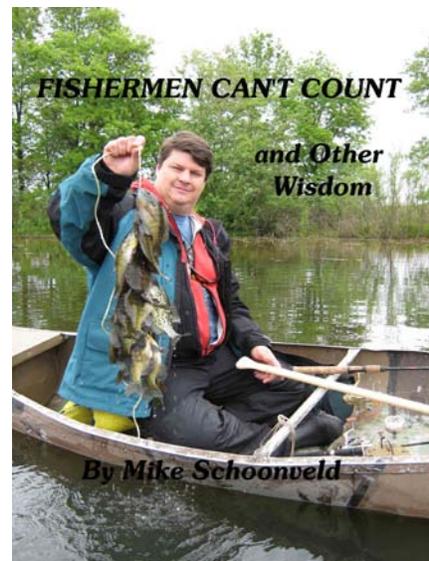
According to Josh right after his return: “Cast and Blast was spectacular. Now I’m experiencing the joys this morning that come from being away for a week!”

Josh also said the Lewiston, NY area is, arguably, the best freshwater fishery in the lower 48. You can fish for trophy smallmouth, steelhead, lake trout, brown trout and salmon in several distinct and unique fishing situations. The photo at left shows Josh fishing for smallmouth by kayak in the lower Niagara River. Photo by Brent Wheat.

Schoonveld Publishes His First e-Book

Mike Schoonveld's first book is now available at www.amazon.com for Kindle Readers, PCs and other devices. The book is a compilation of past columns, essays and articles, updated and presented as an e-book. The book, titled: *Fishermen Can't Count and Other Wisdom* is available at: <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B0087OXC9C>

The editorial review that goes with the book says: The author's life changed when caught his first fish at age six. Since then he studied Wildlife Science in college, spent 38 years as a wildlife biologist, became a freelance outdoor journalist and licensed fishing guide. This book is a compilation of fact, fiction, science and opinion about people who hunt, fish and play in the outdoors.



Editor's note: You'd think a famous outdoor writer like Mike Schoonveld could find a better cover model for his first book than HOW Executive Director Tom Berg. Evidently he knows Tom can't count any better than he can!

Membership Changes and New Mailing Addresses

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

Richard Battaglia: New home mailing address: 3873 Hagan Ct., New Meadows, ID 83654
Brent Wheat: New home mailing address: 2125 Witt Rd., Lebanon, IN 46052

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!

Unusual Nature Photos From The Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Battenfeld Technologies

Meet The Colorful Ailanthus Webworm Moth



Close-up



Original



The “What is it?” question from the last HOW newsletter was a bit harder than previous ones. A total of 6 HOW members correctly identified it: PJ Perea, Alan Garbers, Bill Keaton, Brian Waldman, John Maxwell and Rich Creason all guessed the right answer. When we drew a name at random for the **B’n’M Poles** gift certificate, Rich Creason was the big winner. Congratulations, Rich!

As you can see in the photo to the right, this time the mystery creature was an Ailanthus webworm moth. These moths are native to the southern U.S. and migrate north every year because they cannot survive cold winters. They are often seen eating nectar from flowers in our gardens. The larvae feed on the Paradise tree and Tree-of-Heaven, and live in communal webs. Although the moth isn’t an invasive species in the U.S., the Tree of Heaven is! They are native to Asia.

For this issue, our friends at **Battenfeld Technologies** 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 very cool Caldwell Lead Sled Solo that should interest our shooting enthusiasts. 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 left 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 should be easier 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, **Battenfeld Technologies** will be donating a Caldwell Lead Sled Solo 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 (except the Lead Sled) 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.

Johnson Outdoors Introduces New Eureka! Camping Products

Binghamton, NY: Eureka!, maker of high-quality, innovative sleep systems, tents, furniture and lighting for a wide range of campers, introduces its expansion into the backpack market for 2012. In addition, Eureka! bolsters its sleeping bag line with new size options and accessories including a co-branded liner developed in conjunction with International Mountain Guides. Building on its success of delivering comfort and performance to all types of campers, Eureka!'s recreational tent lines are expanded with the Copper Canyon 4 and Tetragon series of tents. Additional camping accessories include new lighting and furniture for 2012.

Eureka! Backpacks:

Named after peaks in the Adirondacks, Eureka! has designed its new backpacks to accommodate a variety of outdoor adventures including multi-day, weekend and day trips. Designed for comfort and accessibility, the Eureka! backpack collection delivers quality features at an affordable price. Each backpack is constructed of a 420D polyester mini ripstop body with a 600D polyester oxford bottom and features a padded and ventilated back panel with 3D spacer mesh, padded hip belts, slide adjustable sternum straps with safety whistles, built-in rain covers, and a boxed and padded hydration sleeve that doubles as a laptop/tablet compartment.



Eureka! Sleeping Bags:

Catering to a wide spectrum of outdoor adventurers, Eureka!'s new sleeping bag line offers something for everyone – from the first-time family camper to the seasoned backpacker. For recreational campers and traditional outdoorsmen, Eureka! is introducing a new “big” size for its updated Sandstone sleeping bags that feature a more generous cut for big and tall campers. The new big size is a full six inches wider and six inches longer than traditional sleeping bags, providing optimal comfort for larger campers.



“Eureka! is answering the need for larger-sized bags for the big and tall segment of the market, an underserved group that is of considerable interest to our retailers,” said Rob Marcello, Eureka! associate product manager. “As a pioneer in the camping industry, Eureka! is once again delivering on its promise of quality and affordability while addressing the needs of varied outdoor participants.”

Eureka! is also introducing new tents, camp furniture and lighting for 2012. For more information, contact Erin Keefe: 617-512-9498, erin@ekeefepr.com. You may also visit the Eureka! website at: www.eurekatents.com.

Eureka!, offering quality tents, sleeping bags, furniture, lighting, and camping accessories for a wide spectrum of campers and environments, is part of the Johnson Outdoors family of leading outdoor recreational product brands. The company turns ideas into adventure with a portfolio of award-winning, innovative brands that span the globe.

Eureka!
FOR LIFE OUTDOORS.

HOW Supporting Member News

Otis Technology Honored With MMH Productivity Award

Lyons Falls, NY: Otis Technology, the leading manufacturer of gun cleaning systems and accessories, is proud to be the recipient of the 2012 Productivity Achievement Award by Modern Materials Handling (MMH). Each year the MMH publication recognizes the achievements of three of the facilities that they have featured in the magazine within the past 12 months with a Productivity Award. Otis was announced as the Productivity Award winner in the manufacturing and innovation category for their use of mobile robots in their manufacturing operations. The award was announced in the February 2012 issue of the publication.

As part of their ongoing lean manufacturing initiative, Otis Technology partnered with RMT Robotics in 2009 to introduce the ADAM™ autonomous mobile robot to their manufacturing operation in upstate New York. Navigating in a complex ever-changing environment, amongst people and machines, ADAM adapts and performs on-demand random origin to random destination transport of work-in-process materials between Otis's manufacturing; AS/RS based storage and final assembly operations.

Otis' Director of Operations, Harold Philbrick says, "Otis has never been afraid to use technology as a means to help make our operations more efficient. We identified excessive amounts of material transportation within our process during initial stages of lean implementation and have since utilized the ADAMs to move material throughout the facility. The benefits of this implementation were recognized immediately. More output has led to shorter lead times and higher on time delivery, while improved operating efficiency has led to inventory accuracy. Being recognized with this Productivity Award shows the success of our implementation in a different aspect. We are very honored."

"Otis Technology is a forward-thinking company whose commitment to and adoption of lean manufacturing makes them truly deserving of this recognition," said Bill Torrens, director of sales and marketing, RMT Robotics. "We are thrilled to witness the continued success and efficiency the ADAM solution has brought to Otis Technology."

Otis Technology is known for manufacturing the most advanced gun cleaning systems available. The superior Breech-to-Muzzle® design combined with unmatched quality has positioned Otis as the gun care system of choice with the US Military. Otis Technology is SMART GUN CARE.

For more information, contact Cara Peebles at 315-348-4300 Ext: 2449, cara@otisgun.com, or visit www.otistec.com.

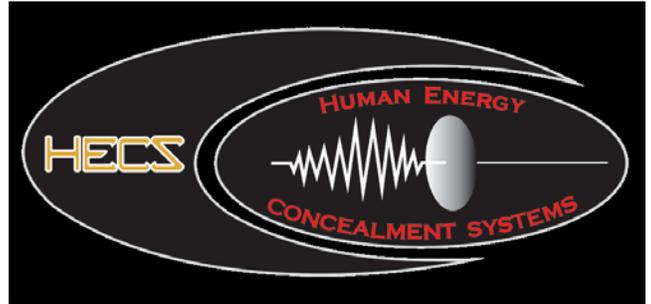


Want to be featured in the HOW Supporting Member News section? Send press releases and new product info to newsletter editor Tom Berg at: thomas.berg@comcast.net.

HOW Supporting Member News

HECS Appoints Global Licensing Expert

John Day, OR: HECS, a world leader in concealment textiles and creator of HECS STEALTHSCREEN, welcomes global licensing expert Richard Howard to the business as it gears up to meet growing enquiries from hunting and outdoor brands around the world.



Richard has extensive professional experience in the camouflage and outdoors industries and will work closely with brands and companies wishing to license HECS technology and assist them in developing products incorporating HECS material for their specific markets.

Mike Slinkard, founder of HECS says; “HECS is delighted to have a person of Richard’s caliber on the team. The interest we are getting from hunters is being noted by the big outdoor brands here in the US and overseas. Richard will be a great asset as we develop those relationships. He is well traveled and has an in-depth knowledge of numerous cultures and economic environments.”

“As an avid hunter and conservationist, I have experienced the benefits of wearing HECS STEALTHSCREEN for myself,” enthuses Richard. “I am excited to be able to help brands around the world share HECS’ revolutionary technology with their own customers.”

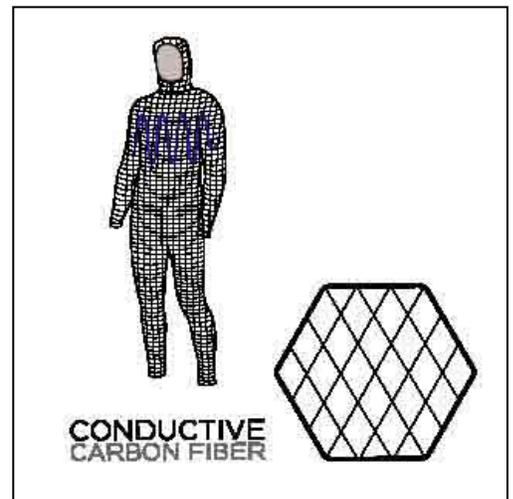
“HECS STEALTHSCREEN can change the game for hunters, photographers and anyone who wants to experience life outdoors,” adds Mike. “All living things, including humans, emit faint electric signals and many animals are able to detect and react to these signals. HECS STEALTHSCREEN is designed to reduce the human body’s electric signal, enhancing your ability to get closer to game in its undisturbed state.”

The unique HECS STEALTHSCREEN material is made of specially woven conductive carbon fibers that are designed to reduce the human body’s electric signal, while delivering the highest standards of comfort and performance.

For more information contact Mike Slinkard, President of HECS LLC: 541-575-4327, mike@hecsllc.com.

About HECS:

HECS is recognized as a world leader in concealment technology. Based in Oregon, HECS supplies apparel and equipment to the hunting, dive and wildlife research and photography industries. HECS STEALTHSCREEN’S conductive carbon grid works to reduce the electric signal emitted by the human body. For more information about HECS, please visit www.hecsllc.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.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:

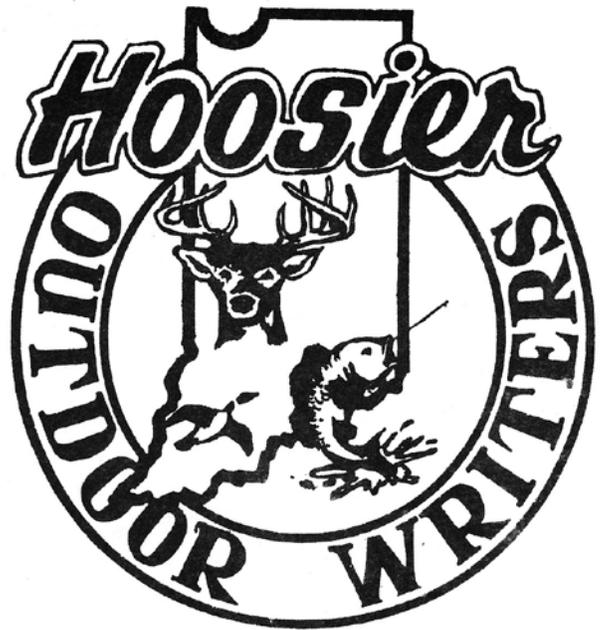
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor 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

ICAST Show 2012: (www.icastfishing.org) Orlando, FL	July 11-13, 2012
POMA 2012 Annual Conference: (www.professionalooutdoormedia.org) Tunica, MS	August 1-4, 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
SHOT Show 2013: (http://shotshow.org) Las Vegas, NV	January 15-18, 2013
Cincinnati Travel, Sports & Boat Show: (www.hartproductions.com) Cincinnati, OH	January 18-20 & 23-27, 2013
Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show: (www.renfroproductions.com) Indianapolis, IN	February 15-24, 2013
HOW 2013 Annual Conference: (www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org) Site to be announced	April, 2013 (Exact date to be announced)
NRA 2012 Annual Meeting: (www.nra.org) Houston, TX	May 3-5, 2013

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.