

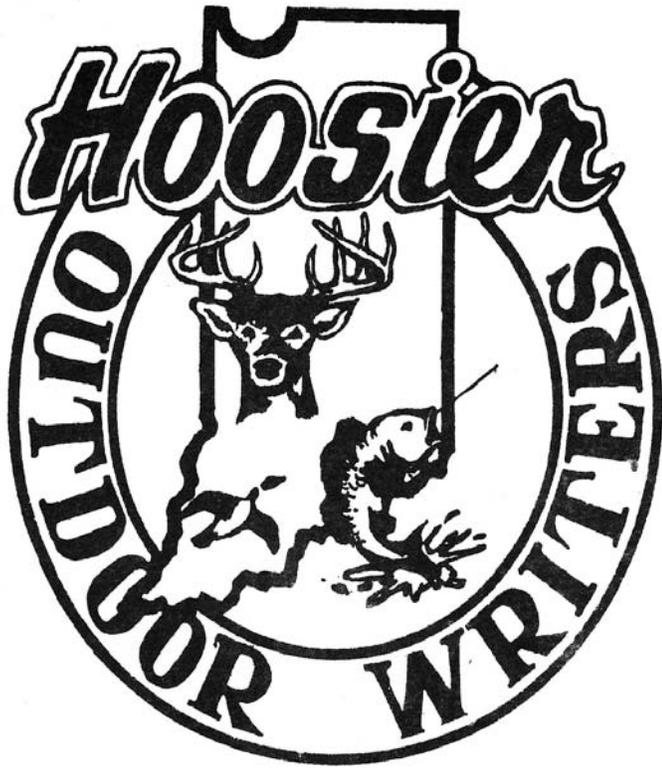
The Blade

July - August 2012

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Hummingbird In Flight", 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: Hummingbirds are a common sight in flower gardens, around trumpet vines, and at man-made hummingbird feeders. If you look closely, you'll see that this hummingbird is sticking out his tongue as if to give the photographer the raspberry! Photo by Tom Berg.



President's Message

by Josh Lantz

Thank God for Coffee

It's 6:00 a.m. and I'll be leaving in an hour and a half for the 56th annual Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers (AGLOW) conference in Branson, MO, where I'll be joining over 200 media members, spouses, outdoors industry representatives and guests for four days of craft improvement, networking, fun and story gathering. I'll certainly see several HOW members there and I'm looking forward to it immensely.

Those of you who attend the HOW, AGLOW, POMA or OWAA conferences know how important these events can be to our bottom lines as outdoor communicators. They are all about networking; making and renewing connections with the people who can help support the quality and substance of our craft and increase our audiences.

As HOW's Executive Director Tom Berg and our past presidents know, however, these conferences take a lot of work to put together.

As AGLOW's Executive Director, I start planning for a conference two-and-a-half years before the event takes place. We issue a detailed Request for Proposals to progressive outdoor destinations that see the value in hosting members of the outdoor media. Our conference committee selects up to three finalists and, two months later, they come to the current year's conference and make presentations to our board and general membership. The board selects the winning destination at the end of the conference. We make a big deal about it.

Over the following two years, the winning host organization will come and be an active part of all of our events, while our media members begin supporting them by writing stories about their destination. Site visits take place and contracts are worked out with the host lodging facility. The real work begins about six months before the conference. Registration begins. Meal sponsorships are sold to supporting members who want to increase their exposure to our hard-working media. Quality speakers are lined up and confirmed. Details are finalized with the host facility's hospitality staff, as well as a variety of offsite venues and local guides and outfitters. Product donations are secured for the auction. The list seems endless.

Then, suddenly, it is time to pack the truck and leave. We hope that nothing has been forgotten and all the details are taken care of. If we have done it correctly, our membership shows up, has many great experiences and has something remarkable to talk and write about for many months to come.

While HOW is a smaller organization than AGLOW, it is fortunate to have exceptional conferences and an exceptional Executive Director who does what he should – that is, make planning a fantastic conference look easy. He'll pull it off again this year, no doubt, with a little help from the HOW Executive Committee and our many supporting members.

The next HOW Conference will take place on April 19-21, 2013 at Clifty Falls State Park near Madison, IN. Look for an official announcement on page 5 of this newsletter. Planning is well underway, so mark the date on your calendar. All you need to do is show up and participate and you'll glean maximum benefit from your annual membership. And at the end of the event, don't forget to pat your E.D. on the back for a job well done.

Thank God for over-worked and under-paid Executive Directors.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

**Kevin Lilly (Active)
Morgantown, IN
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

HOW Conference Announcement

2013 Conference Site And Conference Dates Chosen

We are pleased to announce that the 2013 HOW Conference will be held in Madison, IN at the Clifty Inn and Clifty Falls State Park. The conference will take place on the weekend of April 19-21, 2013, with the main meeting occurring on Saturday, April 20th.

The date of this conference was chosen very carefully to minimize conflicts with Easter, Mother's Day, turkey season and AGLOW events, so hopefully most HOW members will be able to plan their schedules ahead of time so they can attend. So **SAVE THE DATE!**



A view of one of the four main waterfalls inside beautiful Clifty Falls State Park.



As usual, we will have plenty of interesting seminars and speakers at this conference. We will also announce the winners of our annual awards-in-craft contests and elect new officers.

For everyone who has come to love the HOW Raffle over the past several years, we are planning to make it even bigger and better this year. It will be hard to top the quality and quantity of the last two years, but we will do our best! If you haven't attended a conference recently, come see what it's all about!

More details will be forthcoming in future editions of The Blade. If you have never been to Clifty Falls State Park, you owe it to yourself to visit next spring. Whether you plan to attend the entire weekend or just the annual meeting on Saturday, the trip to Madison will definitely be worth it. Don't miss the 2013 HOW conference!

Save The Date!

Conference: April 19-21, 2013
Annual Meeting: April 20, 2013

HOW Awards-In-Craft Winner

(2nd Place in the Writing Contest – Under 1000 Words)
(General Outdoors category)

“MOBY KOI – THE GREAT WHITE CARP” **by Jack Spaulding**

One of the destination spots for our vacation this year was Asheville, North Carolina home of the world famous Biltmore Mansion. Boasting 250 rooms, it is a house no one would look forward to come spring cleaning time. Even though it was early fall when we were there, the cleaning crews were hard at work doing guess what.... spring cleaning.

My wife and I were looking forward to touring Biltmore. It seemed everyone we knew had been to the Biltmore Estate at one time or other. Everyone in Asheville or anyone who has been to Asheville has been to the Biltmore Mansion. We were beginning to think we were two of maybe the ten last people in the United States who hadn't toured Biltmore. I was beginning to think Asheville must be an Indian word for "place with huge house." Even our oldest daughter had been to Biltmore and said, "Dad... you and Mom will love it. It is the most awesome place you can imagine, and it even has its own winery!"

Hearing the part about the winery got me more in the mood to see "the unique survivor of the Gilded Age, Châteauesque-styled mansion on 8,000 acres." My wife loved the entire house. At the end of the three hour self-guided tour, she was almost breathless. I for one, found at least four of the 250 rooms to be of interest; the library, the billiards room, the gun room and the kitchen.

Exiting the mansion, we ate lunch in the food courtyard and then, began our afternoon long tour of the gardens.

My wife likes gardens and plants and bushes and flowers, and we have a yard full of that beautiful kind of stuff. I like flowers as well as

the next guy, but my imagination with shrubbery and foliage goes about as far as determining which branches would make good camouflage for a deer or turkey blind.

The first plant lover's look-and-see on the list was the three Italian water gardens. They are huge marble pools with massive lily pads and water plants. The water gardens look a lot like Granny's cement pond on the TV show, The Beverly Hillbillies with lots of grass and green stuff growing in them.

I admit, I did cringe a little when Chris said, "Wouldn't something like this, only smaller, look good in our side yard?" All I could think is how much digging it would require.

Glancing across the pool, I noticed movement a few feet out near a lily pad the size of a living room carpet. It was a koi, an ornamental carp, and a big one... maybe 14 inches long. It was as big as any we had seen in Taiwan.

Looking across the water garden, I noticed a huge, white, ghostly form cruising several feet under the surface about 50 feet away. Walking to the edge of the pond, I shaded my eyes to get a better look.

Much to my surprise, the white apparition began to come toward my side of the pond. As it came closer, it began to swim closer to the surface, and I couldn't believe my eyes.

I suddenly realized it is a monster size white koi close to 30 inches long heading right toward me. Holy Herman Melville! It's the Great White Carp!

The closer it came, the shallower it got. Within

seconds, the fish's back was out of the water and it was coming at full steam right toward me. It was huge and dwarfed any koi alive!!

In amazement, I watched as the fish swam up to the edge of the pond and actually stuck its head out of the water, begging to be fed.

I kneeled down... dabbled my fingers in the water... and it swam over to me. As it frolicked on the surface chomping and making fish faces at me, I reached down and petted its head like a pet dog.

This was the first time I have ever petted a fish! Apparently, the fish are fed by the groundskeepers and have become so accustomed to the process, the fish equate humans with food. Giving Moby Koi another little rub on the head, I fancied myself the carp whisperer or maybe the king of the koi. Being what I considered a real National Geographic moment, I proudly said,

“Chris, look at me.”

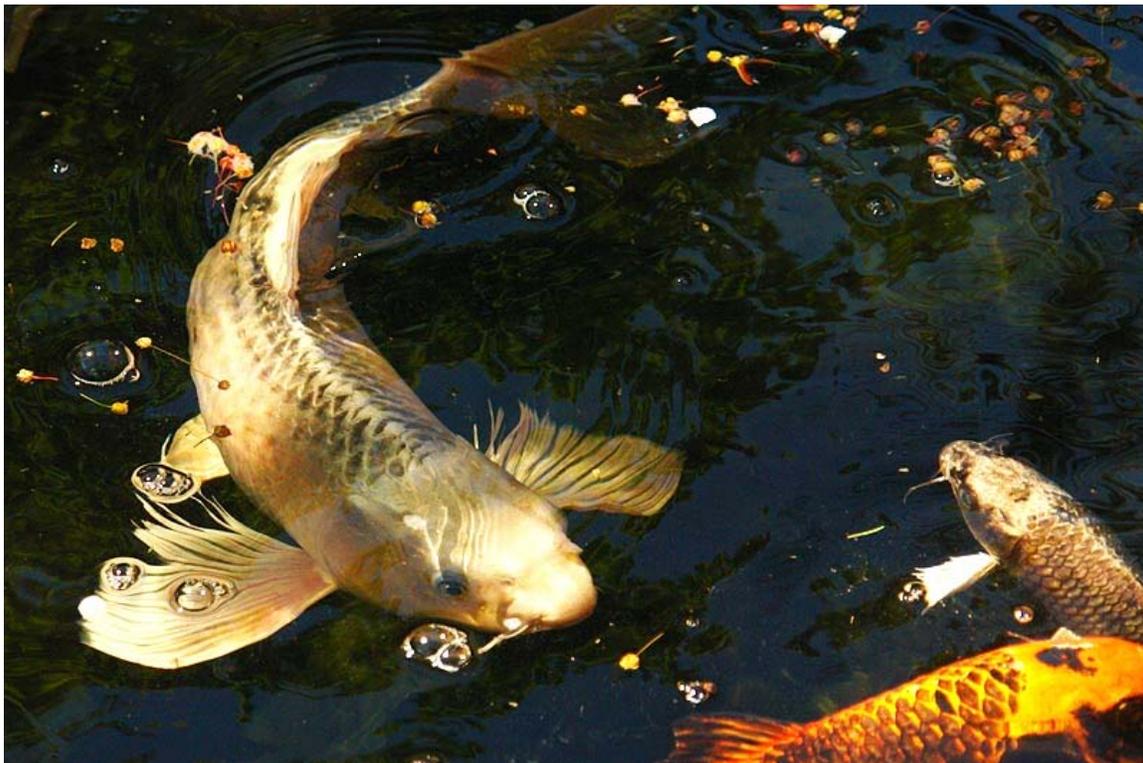
Spinning around, my wife couldn't believe what she was seeing. Instead of appreciating the situation and bragging on my piscatorial prowess, I heard her say in her scariest Mom

voice ever, **“GET UP... RIGHT NOW AND LEAVE THE FISH ALONE!! I SWEAR... I CAN'T TAKE YOU ANYWHERE! ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND? YOU CAN'T GRAB THE FISH... YOU'LL GET US THROWN OUT!”**

Startled beyond belief, and jumping to my feet, I tried to explain I wasn't grabbing the fish, I was just petting it. It's not like I'm some kind of a kook with a fish fetish or some piscatorial pervert. Furthermore, I'm not a common koi noodler and I wasn't about to finger one of Biltmore's pet fish out of the pond. I even had her look around the water gardens to see there were no signs saying not to pet the fish.

In short, no excuses or rational explanations were being accepted, and I was quickly ushered away to another area of the gardens nowhere near the ponds. Needless to say, the next couple of hours of touring the gardens and greenhouses wasn't nearly as exciting for me.

Most likely, I will be spending the winter trying to intercept the mail before it gets to my wife in hopes of throwing away the aquatic garden catalogs.



Lake Michigan Hat Trick

by Mike Schoonveld

There was an amazing incident on my boat earlier this summer that I decided would make a great blog posting. However, as those of you who have ever heard me tell a story can attest, sometimes my tales become a bit lengthy.

By the time I was done, the story was long enough to be a full column for my regular slot in Michigan Outdoor News called "Great Lakes Logbook." So here's the downsized version of the event:



While in the middle of a Great Lakes Fire Drill (the confusion that occurs when two or more salmon are hooked at the same time) and trolling in 3-foot waves, my fishing hat became dislodged and fell into the lake. It was a nice yellow/black Off Shore Tackle hat that I won in the HOW raffle. We couldn't stop or turn around and by the time the fish were boated, the lines re-deployed and the fire drill over, we'd trolled a half mile or so from the location.

No, I didn't mark the spot on my GPS and even if I'd done that, the hat would have floated off in the waves from any GPS waypoint I'd created. Still, we had to fish somewhere and I knew there were active fish back where my hat was floating; so I made mental calculations of what heading would put the boat on course and steered a gradual turn.



As we approached ever nearer to "ground-zero" a salmon bit on a long line trailing over 100 yards behind the boat. Those take a while to reel in, but the angler handled the chore admirably. Just as I scooped the fish into the net, one of the other passengers said, "There's the hat!"

Yes indeed! About 10 yards off the starboard bow, the bright yellow hat floated soggily, awaiting rescue. So I netted it, too! The fish was in the boat, my white forehead saved from the sun and my lucky hat was saved, too.

Editor's note: This story was taken with permission from Mike's blog page (photos courtesy of Mike Schoonveld, too). During the spring and summer, Mike mostly blogs about Great Lakes fishing. During the fall and winter he turns his attention to trapping. To read some of his other blog entries, click on www.brothernature.info.

My First Musky in Years

by Rich Creason

Since 1972, (we were married in '71) my wife and I have gone fishing in Canada probably 30-35 times. Over this period, we have caught hundreds of walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass, and probably less than 10 muskies. Several years ago, we traveled through Manitoba to the far northwest angle of Ontario for the sole purpose of catching a musky in Lake of the Woods. After three days of hard fishing, we were skunked. My last musky was caught sometime in the 1990's. That is, until May 2nd of this year.

In mid March, we attended the Outdoor Sports, Lake & Cabin Show in Ft. Wayne. I was checking out all the exhibits when we saw a bunch of pictures of huge muskies at Gary's Indiana Muskie Experience booth. I immediately stopped and introduced myself to guide Gary Enos. Since I already knew a lot about catching these hard fighting fish, I had the right questions to ask, and started throwing them at Gary. We discussed his operation, equipment, prices, experience, area fished, and much more. When we were finished, I was well satisfied and signed Susie and I up for a spring trip to northern Indiana.

Gary is a full time guide with 30 years of musky fishing experience. He is fully licensed, insured and DNR inspected. His boat is equipped with Tooth Tamer rods and reels with enough backbone to handle a 50" monster. All necessary equipment is supplied including baits and live suckers when available. You bring your own polarized sunglasses, rain gear, sunscreen, drinks and snacks, and of course, a camera for your catch and release trophy.

We met Gary at Ye Olde Tackle Box Bait & Tackle in North Webster around 7 AM. We could have picked from numerous lakes to try for our quarry, but we told Gary to pick whichever location seemed to be working best at that time. He fishes on Webster, Backwaters Lake, the Barbee Chain, Lake Tippecanoe, James Lake, Oswego Lake, Loon Lake and others, but he said we would be fishing Upper Long Lake about 15 minutes east of our location.



Rich Creason lifts a nice musky that he caught and released from Upper Long Lake near North Webster, IN. Photo courtesy of Rich Creason.

We arrived at the lake and Gary launched his boat in just a few minutes. We jumped in, and quickly he had our poles rigged and ready for action. We would be casting huge lures toward the docks, weeds, and trees along the shoreline. We also were trailing a large, live sucker behind the

boat. Our guide ran through the how, where, what, and why of musky fishing for our information.

We were using levelwind bait casting reels and after just a cast or two, we remembered the proper “figure 8” finish to our retrieve. Muskies often follow the lure right to the boat. If you just lift your lure from the water, the fish will swim away. But, if you put your rod tip down into the water and run your bait in a fast figure 8 pattern, it will often entice a musky to attack. Gary will teach you this technique. We saw several keeper musky follow our offering to the boat, stare at us for a few seconds, then just drop into the depths. We also saw them following the live sucker we were trolling.

It’s hard to relax when you’re throwing a bait which seems to get heavier with every cast, especially after several hours, while waiting for a toothy monster which might go over four feet long to grab it. But I can sleep anywhere, even while standing up in a boat. Being on the water with the movement of the waves is always relaxing. I watched the neat rows of cottages along the shoreline. Several “For Sale” signs dotted the yards and I seriously considered coming back to look at a couple fine looking cabins. What could be better than owning a retreat on an 80 acre lake, lots of fish, no big motors or jet skis? It would be a great getaway for anyone for weekends now or retirement later. If we were a little closer to the signs, I would have been writing down numbers of the real estate agents. I’m sure many of the other lakes in the area have similar offerings.

As I dreamed of owning my cabin on the lake, Gary hollered “Fish on!” and I grabbed for the rod attached to the live bait. I leaned back hard to set the hook and felt the power on the other end immediately hit back. I’ve caught many species of both fresh and saltwater fish, but nothing excites me more than tangling with a big musky. Sometimes they begin their fight as soon as they feel the hook. Other times they will actually come easily to the boat, and then explode when they’re just a few feet away, drenching the angler with water and peeling line off the reel. This one fought as soon as she grabbed the bait.

I finally brought the fish to the net. As usual, when the musky saw the net, the fight started again. After several times trying to get her close enough, Gary was able to slip the net underneath and lift the fish aboard. Since we were going to release anything caught, we quickly took several pictures and measured the fish. It was 36” long, which is a big fish - but not a big musky. She was thin and weighed around 15 pounds. Gary said she had just finished spawning. We gently released her and watched as she swam away.

If my fish had been 50 inches or larger, Gary said he has a local taxidermist, Cecil Baird, who has won many national awards for his work, who would mount a replica of the trophy for free. To contact Gary Enos to set up your trip to try for a huge musky, call 574-275-1885 or email him at garymuskienut@aol.com. Also, check out the website of the Ye Olde Tackle Box bait store at www.yeoldetacklebox.com for more info.

If you’ve never caught a musky, you definitely need to try it. If you’ve already caught one, I don’t need to explain it to you.

Hunting and Fishing in Indiana Almost 100 Years Ago

Here is a very interesting document from long-time HOW member Phil Hawkins of Franklin, IN. The document below is a copy of his Grandfather's Indiana Hunting and Fishing License from the year 1919. That's 93 years ago! The license was issued to Roland Van Hawkins, and as you can see it included hunting AND fishing privileges for the entire year. The cost was one dollar. That seems insignificant now, but in 1919 it was more than mere pocket change! See next page for more info.

GOOD FOR ONE YEAR FROM DATE OF SALE.

\$100. **RESIDENT'S** No. 49811

HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE

STATE OF INDIANA

Be it known that R. Van Hawkins,
 a resident of the Town or City of Franklin
 and County of Johnson, having paid the fee of
 ONE DOLLAR, required by law, is hereby licensed to hunt and fish
 anywhere within the State of Indiana, for the period of one year from the date hereof,
 to-wit: June 1 1919 subject to all the provisions and penalties
 of the laws of said State regulating the killing of game and the taking of fish.
 This license is not transferable and must be in the licensee's possession when
 hunting or fishing.

DESCRIPTION OF LICENSEE.

Age 43 Weight 120 Height 5-6
 Color of Hair Dark Color of Eyes Brown
 Complexion Mixed

Distinctive Marks _____
 Issued at Franklin Ind.
 on the day above written.

Countersigned: John J. Beatty
 Clerk of the Johnson Circuit Court

Signature of Licensee R. Van Hawkins

Get Permission from Owner or Tenant of Lands.

W. M. Miller
 Acting Superintendent of
 Fisheries and Game
 Department of Conservation

Ed. Shoreman
 Commissioner of
 Fisheries and Game

NOTICE
 The Law makes no provision
 for Duplicates. If License is lost
 no Duplicate will be issued.

Get Permission from Owner or Tenant of Lands.

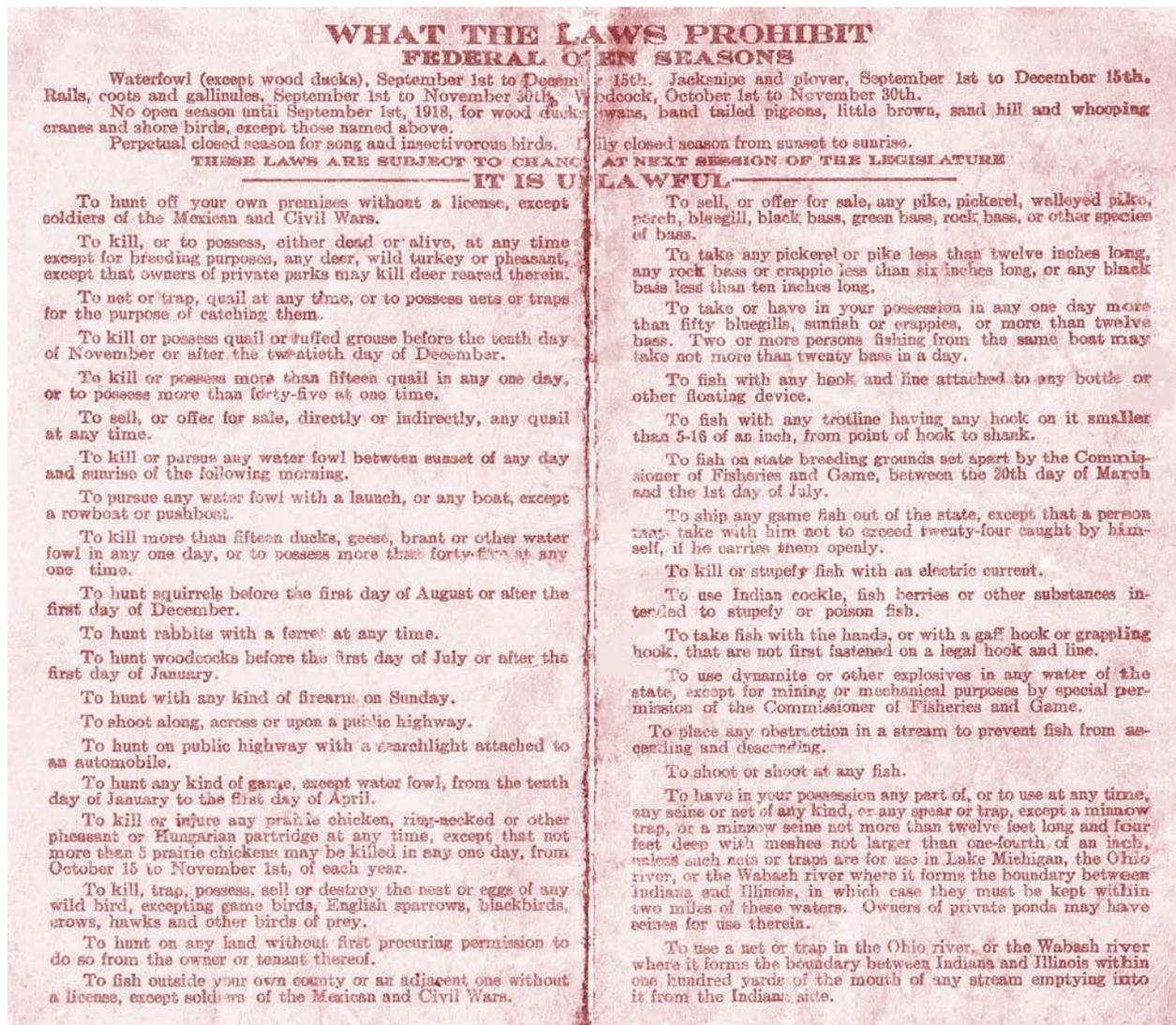
Indiana's Hunting and Fishing Laws in the Year 1919

This is the back side of the Roland Van Hawkins' Indiana Hunting and Fishing License. It lists all of the rules and regulations for the taking of game and fish in the state in 1919 on one page! It is quite a change from the extensive rulebooks that we have now, isn't it?

It is interesting to read some of the rules from 1919, too. They gave special rights to veterans of the Mexican-American War and the Civil War. It was unlawful to hunt with any kind of firearm on Sunday! It was also unlawful to use Indian cockle or fish berries to stun fish so that they could be easily caught! It's interesting to read about those regulations in this day and age.

Back in 1919, many bird populations were much more numerous than today. According to this license, it was legal to hunt for Indiana's prairie chickens back then. Prairie chickens are gone now, but there have been plans to re-introduce them recently. It was also legal to hunt band-tailed pigeons and whooping cranes. Band-tailed pigeons do not visit Indiana any longer (they live out west and in Central and South America), and of course whooping cranes are on the endangered species list.

Thanks to Phil Hawkins for sending this historic Indiana document for all of us to see!



HOW Member News

Louie Stout Launches Regional Outdoor Fishing and Hunting Website

South Bend, IN: On August 6, 2012, veteran newspaper and magazine outdoor journalist Louie Stout launched a northern Indiana/southern Michigan outdoors news site for Michiana anglers, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts.



“Michiana Outdoors News” (www.louiestout.com) is now live on the web and offers an easy-to-navigate news format that provides timely fishing and hunting news from throughout the greater Michiana area, a weekly blog, new product reports, plus tips and videos from local and national experts. Reports and photos of big fish and trophy game taken by Michiana sportsmen will be posted regularly.



“The site is the place to find the latest happenings, regulation changes, how-to tips and outdoor gear that pertain specifically to the region,” said Stout. And, if you happen to miss his columns in the South Bend Tribune and Goshen News, you’ll find them appearing also at ‘Michiana Outdoor News.’

The site will cover southern Michigan and northern Indiana, from Lake Michigan to the Ohio state line.

In addition to his newspaper writing, Stout is a senior writer for B.A.S.S. Publications, author of two books with pro angler Kevin VanDam, and a 2005 inductee to the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame.



Board of Director News

Please take note: The HOW Executive Committee has taken action per the Bylaws to replace the At-Large Board position vacated by Alan Smith on the Board of Directors with John Martino. Alan had been elected to the Board at our annual conference in May, but he has since dropped his HOW membership. John will serve in his place for the remainder of the term, which will end in 2014.

John Martino has been a HOW member since 1988, and he has served HOW as the Nominating Chairman for many years. He also served the organization as President in 1997. Currently, John remains as the HOW Nominating Chairman in addition to his new duties as one of the At-Large Board members. He also received the HOW/Bass Pro Shops “Pass It On” Award at the 2012 HOW Conference. Thank you for your dedicated service, John!

The Great Land

by Dave Hoffman



Above: Dave lifts a 60-lb Pacific halibut.
Below: Dave with a nice sockeye salmon.

Coho salmon were flip-flopping about the deck like drunken gymnasts while my companions shouted with excitement, but my mind was focused on the beautiful, fog-draped mountainside until a Hump-back whale surfaced and spouted only yards away. It was exhilarating to be back in the “Great Land” and to be fishing with former co-workers from Minnesota.

Beautiful Port Ashton Lodge located in the wilderness near the Gulf of Alaska was the first leg of our Alaskan adventure. Hardly roughing it, we were treated to gourmet meals and custom built log accommodations. A federally-protected Steller sea lion posed for us in the lodge’s tiny harbor when we returned from the first day of fishing, which was highlighted by a 150+ pound Pacific halibut. Looking like a Chernobyl goldfish, we also landed a several yelloweyes, one of the species of rockfish inhabiting Prince William Sound.

However, the most unusual species caught was a huge

octopus. At the end of the 2½ day stay we had frozen about 50 pounds of halibut, coho and rockfish fillets per fisherman.

Traveling up the scenic Sterling Highway on the western side of the Kenai Peninsula, our second destination was the Funny River to ambush the sockeye salmon run. Since sockeye (red) salmon are primarily planktivores one is given the opportunity to “hook” them with a fly, which yields a whale of a battle given the spunk of wild salmon and the rapidly flowing glacial stream. Another box of fillets and on we traveled toward Homer, the “Halibut Capitol of the World,” as we counted moose sightings along the highway.



Avoiding the near-shore tourist boats in Homer, we endured a four-hour ride with Sea Flight Fishing Charters to virgin waters of the Cook Inlet to fish for rockfish, lingcod and halibut. Spouting Killer and Humpback whales, acrobatic porpoises, playful sea otters casually floating on their backs, and colorful, big-beaked puffins also kept our attention as did the majestic scenery in every direction.

It was that familiar old juggle between notebook, camera and fishing rod, plus we filled another box with fillets. What an enjoyable respite from the scorching drought at home!



One of Dave’s Alaskan adventure fishing partners with a colorful yelloweye rockfish.

Member Finds Many Fish Species In Southern Indiana

HOW Associate member Mike Berg made a trip to southern Indiana this summer as part of a NANFA (North American Native Fishes Association) field trip to discover and identify interesting fish species that are native to Indiana. Mike met with two other NANFA members and they explored the waters of the Blue River near Corydon and two different sites on the Patoka River.

“We had a good trip, but it was extremely hot,” said Berg. “It was 104 degrees – next time we’ll pick a cooler day! There were only three participants: Dr. Jim Wetzel, PJ Arant, and myself. We met at the Comfort Inn in Corydon, and then proceeded to the Blue River.”

“At the Blue River, we encountered a lot of diversity in the fish species. We also found what might be an un-described crayfish according to Dr. Jim Wetzel. He is an expert with crayfish. From there we moved on to the Patoka River and sampled two locations. The water level was extremely low, but with the help of beaver dams we found the second place to try. I was amazed by the number of grass pickerel in the area. I had never seen dozens of grass pickerel at the same time before. To sample the different fish species we used a seine net, a dip net and a rod & reel.”



An interesting banded sculpin caught (and released) in the Blue River (Blue River Chapel). Photo by Mike Berg.

The NANFA team encountered a variety of fish species at each location. At the Blue River (Blue River Chapel), they caught and identified the following fish: stonecat, smallmouth bass, spotted bass, banded darter, spotted darter, rockbass, longear sunfish, blackstriped topminnow, scarletfin shiner, eastern greenside darter, striped fantail darter and banded sculpin.

In the Patoka River (Patoka River NWR and Wildlife Management Area), they found the following species: slough darter, grass pickerel, warmouth, central mudminnow, bluegill, starhead topminnow, white crappie, blackstriped topminnow, creek chubsucker, redear sunfish, mosquitofish, redspotted sunfish, largemouth bass, green sunfish, flier sunfish, blackspotted topminnow and yellow bullhead.

Other HOW members who are interested in learning more about Indiana’s native fish species can visit the NANFA website

(www.nanfa.org) or contact Mike Berg via email at bergmichael@att.net.



This banded darter was just one of many species caught from the Blue River (Blue River Chapel). Photo by Mike Berg.

Unusual Nature Photos From The Hoosier Outdoors

Sponsored by Frabill

The Common American Toad Is A Gardener's Friend



Close-up
→
Original
←



The "What is it?" question from the last newsletter was a slightly easier than the previous one. A total of 8 HOW members correctly identified it: Brian Waldman, PJ Perea, Mike Schoonveld,

John Maxwell, Nate Mullendore, Phil Seng, Rich Creason and Bill Keaton all guessed the right answer. When we drew a name at random for the Caldwell Lead Sled Solo from **Battenfeld Technologies**, John Maxwell was the big winner. Congratulations, John!

As you can see in the photo to the left, this time the mystery creature was an American Toad. The common American

toad (*Bufo americanus*) lives throughout the state, and they frequent gardens and other moist areas where insects abound. They also eat worms, slugs and almost anything else they can fit in their mouths. They can eat thousands of bugs in one season. An interesting fact about these creatures is that American toads (and their tadpoles) generate toxic chemicals in their skin to discourage predators from eating them. Most animals, including fish, avoid eating toads and their tadpoles.

For this issue, our friends at **Frabill** 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 rugged **Frabill** Power Stow landing net for bass/walleye (20"X24") that will be great for fishermen. 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 does not live in your back yard, but it can be found throughout the state. Have you ever seen it? Can you guess what it is?

This creature might 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 snake, for example, be specific and guess "Black Kingsnake". 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, **Frabill** will be donating a Power Stow landing net (#8507) 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 Frabill net) 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.

Hoosier Trapper Supply Features Outdoor Videos On Web Page

Greenwood, IN: To all Trappers, Hunters and Outdoorsman:

We are excited to release Episode 2 of Hoosier Trapper Outdoors. This show features the follow up of Matt Wings Whitetail Hunt and the second check day of our Trapping Trip. To watch the show, go to www.hoosiertrappersupply.com and click on the YouTube icon or on the Hoosier Trapper Outdoors logo and this will take you to the show. Please note: the shows can be watched in random order, however, they are filmed in sequence with each show building on the past show.



I want to thank everyone for all of the great feedback we have received from our first episode. Please continue to let us know what you think - good, bad, and/or ideas for future shows.

A few other things I want to mention:

Deer Hunters - Be sure to check out the Special Scent Packages we offer. The packages are put together with the time of season in mind - plus, you can save some money!

Trappers - Be sure to check out the Special Packages we offer for trappers. The packages are put together with the type of animal and time of season in mind. In addition, we are offering two complete packages of coyote equipment. Each package offers everything needed to go out and start catching coyotes. Check out the packages and save some money!

Our print catalog has been mailed. If you don't want to wait on the mail, you can go to www.hoosiertrappersupply.com on the home page is an option to print your own catalog.

Be sure to mark your calendars; September 29, Fur Takers Chapter 7-B Fall Rendezvous here at Hoosier Trapper Supply. This a day-long event featuring trapping demos, kids games, great food, and even a turtle cleaning demo. Free admission, even the food is offered on a free will donation basis.

Be sure to check us out on Facebook and Huntvids.com.

I have to tell you, I can hardly wait for fall! We are gearing up for deer season along with preparing equipment for trapping season. We have big plans for video- taping hunts, trapline experiences and all related areas of interest. Until Next Time - Enjoy the Time of Year!!!

Charlie Masheck, 317-881-3075, www.hoosiertrappersupply.com

HOOSIER TRAPPER SUPPLY INC.

HOW Supporting Member News



Clam Outdoors Unveils New Look To Match Its Legendary Reputation

Medina, MN: Embraced by the most respected pro anglers in the world, including ice fishing pioneer Dave Genz, Clam Outdoors continues its tradition of giving anglers expert advice, top-of-the line gear, and constant innovation that, simply put, cannot be beat. As part of this tradition Clam unveils a new logo and look featuring the ice fishing innovator's name and signature blue color, which are synonymous with the quality, toughness and durability that Clam has become known for since its inception more than 30 years ago.

“Clam occupies more space on the frozen lakes of North America than any other brand,” says Nick Chiodo, Director of Marketing for Clam Outdoors. “Anglers have told us that the Clam name means dependable, durable, and tough. Let's face it, when you're going to sit on the ice with the cold wind beating at your back, you want to be armed with only the best. The new logo conveys this rugged and resilient spirit that is Clam, as does our new tagline, “BRING IT™!”



Clam has been the leading resource for ice anglers for over 30 years. It all started back in 1980, when Mr. Ice Fishing himself, Dave Genz, built the very first Clam Fish Trap shelter. His wife Patsy even pulled out her sewing machine to finish off the seams. Today, Clam's iconic blue Fish Trap shelters cover lakes all over the North America.

Clam's innovation goes beyond its shelter technology to also include everything an ice angler needs to be comfortable and productive on the ice, including several lines of rods and reels created by Dave Genz and Jason Mitchell, the legendary professional hunting and fishing guide on North Dakota's Devils Lake.

As part of its goal to educate ice anglers and further advance the sport of ice fishing, Clam is one of the original sponsors of the legendary Ice Team™. Ice Team (www.iceteam.com) is the long-time leader of the Ice Fishing Revolution™. Since 1997, Ice Team has led the industry by offering professional assistance and advice to thousands of ice fishing enthusiasts, while working diligently to help future ice anglers discover the sport. Ice Team features 24 pros who cover the ice belt, including 10 states and Canada. They are committed to providing constant updates and advice to anglers through a website packed with up-to-the minute, cutting edge advice and resources ice anglers won't find anywhere else.

Simply put, Clam is the top resource and most trusted name for ice anglers across the country and has the most respected staff of ice fishing pros in the world. What else would you expect from the folks who practically invented the sport!?

For more information on Clam Outdoors go to <http://clamoutdoors.com> or contact Nick Chiodo at Clam Outdoors at 763-231-4138 or email nchiodo@clamcorp.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

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) Clifty Inn, Clifty Falls State Park Madison, IN	April 19-21, 2013
NRA 2013 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.