

The Blade

2014 Post-Conference Issue

May - June 2014

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Even Hummingbirds Need To Rest", 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 well-known for their high speeds in flight. Their wings can beat so fast that they appear as a blur to our eyes. They have the highest metabolism of all animals (heart rate can exceed 1,000 beats/minute), so it's no surprise they need a short rest! Photo by Tom Berg.



President's Message

by "Ranger" Bob Sawtelle

"Share That Next Outdoor Experience"

You don't have to be afraid of the HOW presidency; the previous office holder always makes it easy to transition to the next. I want to thank Mr. Ben Shadley for his positive and inspiring year of service. Life as the HOW president of course is made easy as long as we continue to have the services of Tom Berg, our executive director and doer of all things required of HOW. He is the heartbeat and soul of our organization. All of us need to show our appreciation for the dedicated service he provides and to also follow his directives to our membership. So to all of us – let's get those thank you letters out to our meeting raffle sponsors and get some product ink in our articles and presentations.

I looked back in the archives of our newsletters to re-acquaint myself with the past presidential inaugural messages. All had great topics and themes for organization improvement and calls to action.

These include Presidential messages from:

- 2008 Brent Wheat - Show; don't tell
- 2009 Bryan Poynter - Highlight the great places to visit in Indiana
- 2010 John Maxwell - Looking forward, Looking back
- 2011 Brandon Butler - Everyone get one
- 2012 Josh Lantz - Rise up and shine
- 2013 Ben Shadley - Same skills, new package

What can I add to the mix? Maybe I can help take those good and solid ideas, blend and pull them together to provide a renewed and positive push for our HOW membership. We need more events, more activities, more opportunities to build and broaden the experiences of and relationships among our members.

All of us also agree that we need to recruit new membership, to get younger and more involved communicators in our ranks; new membership with fresh enthusiasm, energy, dedication and new skills into HOW (2011 Butler "Everyone Get One"). Keep in mind that the "Everyone Get One" program is still in place, so sponsor a new member this year and your dues next year will be waived.

The best method for recruiting new souls into our religion of outdoor expression and communication is to promise them riches and rewards (2008 Wheat "Show, don't tell").

HOW about we do this by offering regional outdoor activity opportunities that include existing HOW members **and new invitees**? From those shared experiences will rise the young and the mature, the inexperienced and the experienced, those eager to learn and those willing to teach. The end results include: members having more fun in the outdoors with fellow members, more "across the organization" membership bonding, more story material gained and more photos to archive for future use, and a great exchange of information and skills (2013 Shadley "Same skills, new package"). We need you to make it your resolution to expand your HOW internal network and more importantly create an opportunity to include new membership recruits.

(continued next page)

Here's how it worked for Tom Berg and myself. We were both the guests of Doug Sikora, one of the speakers at our recent annual meeting (Crappie Dock Shooting). What a great time we had! Doug is even more enthusiastic and energetic in a boat, bending rods and shooting jigs at lakeside docks, than he was giving his casting program to all of us at the annual meeting. A day on the lake with Doug was a grand, entertaining, exciting and rewarding experience. Tom and I learned a new skill and caught fish – LOTS OF THEM. When we tried to at least pay Doug, our guide and instructor, for boat gas, he refused our offer. He said "I had a great day, too!" Tom and I agreed to thank Doug by sponsoring his associate membership into HOW. Tom picked up his associate membership fee and I bought him an IDNR Entrance Pass so he could more freely enjoy Indiana's great places (*2009 Bryan Poynter "Highlight the great places to visit in Indiana"*). It was a win for Tom and myself, a win for Doug and a win for HOW. As you can see on the next page, Doug has just recently become one of the newest members of HOW.

My membership story is similar. John Maxwell, Dean and Ben Shadley drew me into HOW, not through membership promises but through years of shared outdoor experiences and then offering another outlet for my enthusiasm. They said: "Join us in HOW". The prize: more opportunity for me to experience and share the natural resource world of adventure and learning within a wide diversity of personalities of like-minded folks. HOW certainly has a wide diversity of personalities! And that is our strength.

Those riches and rewards I mentioned earlier are found in the act of sharing; sharing your outdoor adventures and experiences in a good written story, as an oral communicator in front of an audience, in a thought-provoking photograph, or even in a short blog post online. But the most valuable prize is mentoring a newcomer within the act of creating an outdoors person from the ranks of the uninitiated. You can provide the opportunity for someone new to discover what we already know – the riches and rewards found by living among the trees, in angling available waters, pursuing game, learning new skills, sharing campfires and even simply just ambling among our forested and rural Indiana landscapes.

Impart value in what we do. The value in what you possess and what you do comes not from ownership but from the act of sharing with others. It is about creating an experience. Our shared experiences will lead to stronger HOW friendships and additional membership; it will re-energize our organization and will result in a bonded professional network that provides more opportunity for all to benefit from. It will also lead to a happier you. Trust me on this one.

In this year of 2014, I would like all of us, with inspired thought and enthusiasm, to try to create a HOW outing in your location. Plan it in an area of your outdoor expertise and offer the opportunity to the existing HOW membership and a new recruit or two. These events do not need to be overly planned or complex. Keep them simple and affordable. Keep them small. But do mix it up with members of HOW outside of your comfort circle and do invite a new recruit to tag along.

Recruit, create and mentor the next generation of Hoosier Outdoor Writers. Be that person that makes a difference in our organization (*2012 Josh Lantz "Rise up and shine"*). Take someone new with you, a member new to you and a new recruit. Share that next outdoor experience.

My camper is in the truck and my boat is hooked up. I am available and I may already be headed your way. Expect a visit!

"Ranger Bob"

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

Doug Sikora (Associate)
Noblesville, IN
Sponsor: Tom Berg

Terri Trowbridge (Active)
Versailles, IN
Sponsor: Alan Garbers

Memorial to Deceased HOW Members

Those Who Have Gone Before Us:

Jack Alkire – HOW President 1979
Bill Beeman – Executive Director
Don Bickel
Ed Blann
Charlie Brown
Gary Carden
Jim “Moose” Carden – HOW President 1982/83
George Carey
John Case
Bill Church – HOW President 1972
Jack “Big Jake” Cooper
Mark Cottingham
Jerry Criss
Gary “Dox” Doxtater
Dick Forbes
Tom Glancy – HOW President 1977
Dale Griffith
Fred Heckman
Jack Kerins
Mike Lyle – HOW President 1981
Ralph “Cork” McHargue – HOW President 1976
Dick Mercier
Bob Nesbit
Hellen Ochs
Jack Parry
Harry Renfro
“Bayou” Bill Scifres – HOW President – 6 Terms
George Seketa
Hal Shymkus
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
Josh Lantz	2012
Ben Shadley	2013

The Annual HOW Fun Shoot: Good Times and Good Company

by Tom Berg

The 2014 HOW Fun Shoot held prior to the conference at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis



HOW member Mike Schoonveld takes aim during the sporting clays shoot at the Indiana Gun Club. HOW members Bill Keaton (keeping score) and Phil Seng (sitting) watch. Fun Shoot photos by Tom Berg.

marked the return of the HOW shooters to one of our old stomping grounds: the Indiana Gun Club near Fishers. A great group of HOW members attended and all had an enjoyable time as we shot a standard round of sporting clays (10 stations, 10 shots each). The weather was a bit cloudy and dreary, but there was no snow or rain like we've seen in the past!

The shooting facilities at the Indiana Gun Club are well-suited for shooting sporting clays, as the course winds through the woods for several of the stations. Clay pigeons fly overhead through openings in the trees and cross from left to right to simulate startled birds fleeing at high speeds. It can be challenging, but it is a lot of fun!

Even though there was a chill in the air, everyone had a good time. The attendees were divided into

groups of four or five shooters each before heading off to the sporting clay course. Some started at one end of the course while others moved to the middle shooting stations. This kept things moving quickly.

After the shooting was done and the smoke cleared, it was time to tally the results. Mike Schoonveld came out on top again this year with the best score, so he was crowned champion for the day. Phil Seng and Tom Berg tied for second place, so they agreed to a shoot-off on one of the toughest stations to see who would prevail. Tom and Phil both missed the first two pairs, but Phil broke one of the next clay targets. Tom missed both again, so Phil took second place. Congrats, Phil!

After the shoot, most of the members headed for Fort Harrison State Park to get ready for our Friday Evening BBQ at the Delaware shelter. We had worked up a pretty good appetite, so we were ready to eat!

HOW would like to extend a big thank-you to Jessica Kallam from



Remington for supplying the ammunition for the shooters again this year. Thanks also goes to the Indiana Gun Club for allowing us to use their fine facility.



Phil Seng "smokes" another clay target.

2014 HOW Conference

We would like to thank the following companies and organizations:



Awards-in-Craft Sponsor



Friday Evening BBQ Sponsor



Conference Lunch Co-Sponsor



Conference Lunch Co-Sponsor



Conference Seminar Sponsor

Sponsors of the 2014 HOW Annual Conference

HOW Raffle Donors - 2014

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Bear & Son Cutlery
Better Bank Anglers
Birchwood Casey
Black River Tools/Father Nature Feeders
Boat U.S. Angler
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Creason Wooden Pens
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FOXPRO, Inc.
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Freedom Group - Remington Arms
Frogg Toggs
Gamo USA
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Gun Protect
Hawke Sport Optics
Henry Repeating Arms
HHA Sports
Hickory Glen Creations
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LensPen
Leupold
Lodge Manufacturing
LUR-SAVR
Lurecraft Industries
Mack's Lures
Mathews
Montauk Mike's Lures
Mossy Oak
MyTopo
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.
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Quaker Boy Game Calls
R.L. Winston Rod Co.
Reef Runner Lures
RIO Products
Savage Arms
Shimano American Corporation
Shurhold Industries, Inc.
Snag Proof Manufacturing
Speedhook Specialists
Speedy Sharp
SportDOG
St. Croix Rods
Streamlight
Tales End Tackle
Tenzing
ThermaCELL
Tink's
TTI-Blakemore Fishing
Umarex USA
Vexilar, Inc.
W.R. Case & Sons
WaveSpin Reels
Weatherby
White Flyer Targets
Winchester Ammunition
Wrangler Rugged Wear
Xtreme Hardcore Gear
Yo-Zuri
Z-Man Fishing Products
Zippo Manufacturing Co.



2014 HOW Conference Returns To Indianapolis!

Over the past few years, we have been moving the HOW conference around the state. It's a great idea and it allows our members to experience different areas of Indiana that they may not be familiar with. This year, however, the conference planners decided to move the conference back to Indianapolis where it was held for many years. The 2014 HOW Conference was held at Fort Harrison State Park on the east side of Indianapolis, and it was a great choice. We had excellent attendance again this year, exceptional speakers and plenty of opportunities for fun! 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 Garrison at Fort Harrison State Park has excellent conference facilities and a terrific staff, and our event was another great success. Many HOW members took advantage of the lodging at the State Park inn and stayed the entire weekend, while others just came in for the day to attend the HOW meeting. Our meeting room was spacious and well-appointed, the catered food was fabulous and the conference provided another great opportunity to learn new things and reconnect with old friends.



Bill Keaton (L), Mike Schoonveld (C) and Phil Seng (R) at the HOW Fun Shoot on Friday.

Traditionally, the HOW Conference actually starts on the Friday afternoon preceding the annual meeting on Saturday. This year's conference was no different, and at 1:00pm on Friday, May 2nd, a group of HOW members met at the Indiana Gun Club near Fishers for the annual HOW Fun Shoot. The weather was cloudy, but the camaraderie was still excellent. Details can be found on the previous page. After the shooting was done, we drove to Fort Harrison State Park and joined other HOW members who were already gathering for the Friday evening barbecue!

At 6:00pm on Friday evening, nearly 30 HOW members, spouses and guests met at the Delaware Shelter inside the state park for a special

barbecue and get-together. Our friends from Visit Indy sponsored the barbecue, and our Master Chef Ken McBroom did nearly all of the cooking. He not only cooked the chicken on the grill at the park shelter, he spent most of the previous night preparing an outstanding pulled pork dinner for us, complete with home-made cole slaw.

As usual, the weather was cold for the barbecue – but not as cold as last year! We all had a wonderful time in spite of the chilly conditions. It wasn't long before someone got some firewood, and soon a warm fire was burning in the shelter's large open-top grill. A big thank-you goes to the Visit Indy team for their hospitality in sponsoring the barbecue!

The annual meeting began at 8:00am on Saturday morning, and 46 HOW members and guests assembled in the main meeting room. As usual, the first hour of the meeting was set aside for registration and social time, and a special full-course hot breakfast was available for all present.



HOW members and their spouses enjoy themselves at the barbecue on Friday evening inside Fort Harrison State Park.

Prior to the social hour, the HOW Board of Directors and Executive Committee conducted their annual board meeting. Among other things, it was agreed that HOW would present the 2014 Bayou Bill Scifres Stewardship Award to Steve Griffey and the Kids Freedom Hunt that he runs. Mr. Griffey will also be the recipient of this year's HOW/Bass Pro Shops "Pass It On" award.

Outgoing President Ben Shadley called the meeting to order and provided opening remarks at 9:00am, then briefed the meeting attendees on the day's schedule. When he was done, he introduced the first seminar speaker: Mark Newman from the Indiana Office of Tourism Development. Mark gave an

interesting and detailed presentation on tourism in Indiana today, and where it can be in the years to come. He had a lot of data describing how outdoor recreation is big business in Indiana.



Jarrett Manek talks about the many different species of snakes native to Indiana. Conference photos by Tom Berg.

The second speaker was our very own HOW member Jarrett Manek. Jarrett is the resident naturalist at O'Bannon Woods State Park in southern Indiana, and he presented his very popular "Snakes Alive!" seminar. He grabbed everyone's attention as soon as he entered the room with his large display case full of live snakes! He had more than a dozen live snakes, including all four venomous snakes native to Indiana (timber rattlesnake,

Massasauga rattlesnake, copperhead and cottonmouth). Other snakes included the black rat snake, king snake, black racer, fox snake, eastern hognose snake, milk snake and more!

Jarrett's talk was fascinating and many HOW members said his presentation was the best one we have ever had at a HOW conference. He showed how snakes are beneficial to the environment and to humans, and he dispelled many of the myths and old wives tales that are common with snakes.



Jarrett Manek carefully displays a very lively timber rattlesnake at the HOW conference.

Before breaking for lunch, outgoing President Shadley called the HOW Business Meeting to order. HOW Nominating Chairman John Martino presented the proposed slate of new officers for the coming year. Bob Sawtelle was elected President, Alan Garbers was elected Vice-President and Ben Shadley will become the Board Chairman. Our new Board members (terms expiring in 2016) include: Kreig Adkins, Jack Spaulding, Gene Clifford, Tom Cranfill and Jarrett Manek. Thank you to all of our new volunteers!

Before the Business Meeting was concluded, incoming President Bob Sawtelle asked John Martino if he would take the podium and give a short speech about the HOW/Bass Pro Shops "Pass It On" Award. John nominated this year's

winner, so he made the formal presentation of the award. This year's recipient was Steve Griffey from Kokomo. John presented an award plaque to Steve, along with a specially-engraved knife to commemorate the occasion. The knife was generously provided and engraved by our friends at Buck Knives.

Steve has been volunteering his time helping local kids who are troubled, disabled or sick experience hunting and the great outdoors. Steve is the founder of the Freedom Hunt, and has been very involved in helping disabled and special needs youth. A special thank-you goes to Katie Mitchell and Bass Pro Shops for sponsoring the Pass It On award.



HOW board member John Martino (R) presented Steve Griffey (L) with the HOW/Bass Pro Shops "Pass It On" Award for his work with disabled and special needs kids through the Freedom Hunt program.

An excellent buffet lunch was served by the Garrison staff, and everyone relaxed and socialized for an hour before the afternoon activities began. The lunch included shrimp scampi, herb baked chicken, London broil, wild rice, au gratin potatoes, green beans, pasta salad with veggies and a tossed garden salad. For dessert there was an excellent apple pie. It was a real feast!!

At 12:30pm, the next seminar was scheduled to be about gold prospecting in Indiana. Jay Clawson, Tom Smith and Bill Shook from the Southern Indiana Chapter of the Gold Prospectors Association of America demonstrated gold panning techniques and showed how their portable bucket-sluice works for separating gold from pay dirt. They also discussed why there is gold in Indiana and where it came from.

Following the gold panning presentation, Bob Sawtelle and Tom Berg made the 2014 HOW Awards-In-Craft presentation. Cash prizes and certificates were awarded to the best of the best in the annual 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 17-18 to see who submitted the best work this year.



Tom Smith shows how to pan pay dirt and separate the gold flakes from sand and gravel.



Doug Sikora demonstrates how to put the right amount of bend in the rod to shoot a jig underneath the edge of a reservoir dock.

The final conference presentation of the day was led by local crappie tournament fisherman Doug Sikora from the Indiana Slabmasters fishing club. He discussed a relatively new technique for catching reservoir crappies called “Dock Shooting”, and he demonstrated the technique with one of his dock shooting rods/reels. Doug was a very entertaining speaker and his passion for the sport really showed.

As usual, the final activity of the day was the annual HOW Raffle. This is the favorite part of the meeting for many HOW members! Raffle chairman Tom Berg organized an amazing event again this year, easily filling several banquet tables with tremendous outdoor products from our loyal Supporting Members (and many new Supporting Members). This year he and his helpers broke the raffle record again, secured donations from a new record **110** companies, organizations and individuals, surpassing the previous record of 105.

Tom would like to thank John Galambos and Rich Creason for their help in securing many of the items this year.



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 the many HOW members that helped unpack and display 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!

The moment the raffle tickets went on sale, a long line formed behind the ticket sales table. Long-time ticket hawker and professional number-caller Jack Spaulding was up to the task as

he stripped tickets off the ticket rolls 50 at a time. This year we raised the ticket price to \$2 per ticket in an effort to save time and cut down on the sheer number of tickets, but Jack and his helpers were still hard-pressed to keep up!

This year's raffle featured quality as well as quantity when it came to the items to be raffled-off. Firearms enthusiasts were especially happy with this year's raffle prizes, as we had a Henry .22 caliber lever-action rifle, a Remington 9mm handgun, a Mossberg 12-gauge Duck Commander shotgun, and several premium air rifles and BB pistols from Crosman and Umarex USA. There was also an abundance of shooting supplies, riflescopes and a great assortment of ammunition. We also had a really nice Mission Riot compound bow from Mathews.



Fishermen in the crowd were wowed by a dazzling array of Great Lakes trolling gear, rodholders, fishing rods, fishing reels, tackle boxes, 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 were also backpacks, camp stoves, lights, premium sunglasses, camera gear, hunting gear, hats, gloves, waterproof binoculars, spotting scopes, knives, boat-care products, tents, camping gear, gift certificates and a top-quality gun cleaning system. There was also hunting calls, turkey hunting gear, outdoor apparel

for both summer and winter, bird feeders, sharpeners, outdoors books, mapping software, cast iron cookware, and lots of other outdoor 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 2014 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 8. Please support them in your work whenever possible, and send them a thank-you note when you get a chance.



Another Great HOW Fishing Outing!!

The HOW Fishing Outing that followed the recent conference was a great success. The weather was spectacular, the fish were cooperative and everyone had a fantastic time. What could be better?

This was planned as a crappie fishing outing, since one of our seminar speakers (Doug Sikora) is an experienced crappie tournament angler. Four groups of anglers met their captains at the boat docks on three different lakes (Geist Reservoir, Morse Reservoir and a small private lake) and proceeded to look for crappies. Here is what they found:

Rick Bramwell:

“Crappie tournament pro James Lasswell from Anderson took me to a 25-acre private pit lake near Plainfield, IN. We caught bass, big crappie, nice bluegills and monster redears using 1/32 and 1/16th ounce jigs. We tipped the light ones with wax worms. The biggest crappie fell for a curlytail grub. I had a good time and plan to fish with James again.”



James Lasswell displays one of the huge crappies and one of the large sunfish that he and Rick Bramwell caught while fishing during the HOW Fishing Outing. Photo by Rick Bramwell.

Ken McBroom:

“I fished with crappie tourney angler Myron Etchison, and we had a great day. We caught about 50 crappie and two catfish on Geist. One crappie was a pig – it actually had 3 bluegill in its stomach. It weighed a little over a pound. We only fished until 12:30 because Myron and I both had a lot of things to do. I made a new friend and plan to fish with Myron again. I may even fish one of their tournaments.”



“We kept about 15 crappie (and the catfish) and released a lot of crappie, too. Those fish were eaten that night and my wife loved the fact that I finally went crappie fishing again. They were good!”

Ken McBroom (left) lifts two of the many fish he and Myron Etchison caught on Geist Reservoir after the HOW conference. Left photo shows a chunky channel catfish. The photo at right shows a very nice pre-spawn white crappie. Both photos courtesy of Ken McBroom.

(continued next page)

Rich Creason:

“On Sunday morning my wife Susie and I were scheduled to go fishing on Geist reservoir with local guide Glenn Gill. We met him at the launch ramp near Olio Road and headed out to find some willing crappie.”

“We arrived at a spot with a large ‘X’ on the water and Glenn began setting out the ‘Spider Rigs’. I guess they call it that because the apparatus has holders for four rods pointed out over both back corners of the boat. The eight poles sticking out look like spider legs.”

“We started catching fish before he had all the lures in the water. Susie would be reeling in a fish on one side of the boat while I was reeling one to the net on the other side. Often we would have three or four on at the same time. We caught white and black crappie, bluegill, bass, and a nice catfish. It was a nice variety of species in a short time.”

“Glenn took us to several different fishing spots around the reservoir while giving us a look at the outstanding houses along the shore. Several of the Indianapolis Colts and Pacers lived here. We saw a couple fine houses for sale, but we didn’t think we had the five or six million to buy them.”

“Unfortunately, we had other commitments that afternoon, so we had Glenn take us back to the boat landing so we could get on the road again. We had a great time fishing with him and will be sure to keep his contact info for the next time we need a Geist fishing trip.”



Rich Creason with a couple of nice white crappies. Photo courtesy of Rich Creason.

Tom Berg:

“Bob Sawtelle and I were scheduled to fish with Doug Sikora, our seminar speaker at the HOW conference. Doug was a fantastic host and we all had a great time. Bob and I met him at Morse Reservoir, his home lake, and we motored off to find a few boat docks where Doug could teach us the ‘dock shooting’ technique that he discussed at the HOW conference.”



Doug Sikora shows the proper technique for dock shooting. Notice how close the boat is to the dock. Photo by Tom Berg.

“When we found a good ‘practice dock’, Doug showed us the proper form for dock shooting. He held the jig in one hand and bent the rod in half with the other. Then he released the jig and the reel’s bail at the same time and shot the jig way up underneath the dock! There was only a few inches clearance between the dock and the water, but it was no problem for Doug.”

(continued next page)

“At first, I thought I would never be able to do it! Bob agreed wholeheartedly! But after 30 minutes or so of practice, we were all shooting jigs into tiny little crevices under docks, under pontoon boats, between docks and boats, and plenty of other places where most normal people can’t get a lure. It was a blast! Bob and I haven’t laughed so hard in quite a while!”

“We caught plenty of crappies, too. Big ones and small ones; but mostly good eating-sized crappies. Bob was hoping for a fish fry featuring crappie fillets, so we saved about 25 fish for him to take home to Corydon. It was an awesome day!”

Bob Sawtelle:

“I just want to send a big *Thank You* to Doug Sikora for the great day on the water, fishing for crappie. I have caught crappies before, but always as a ‘bonus’ while fishing for other species. I had never actually gone ‘crappie fishing’ before. So this was a new experience for me!”

“Thank you, Doug, for an unforgettable day – which included one good boat nap! Dock shooting is the most fun I have had in years. What a hoot!”



Doug Sikora (L) and Tom Berg (R) having fun catching crappies while dock shooting. Photo by Bob Sawtelle.



Doug Sikora (above, left) and Bob Sawtelle (above, right) display another crappie caught under the docks. At right, Bob Sawtelle grins over one of his first “dock shooting” crappies, courtesy of Doug Sikora and Morse Reservoir. What a perfect day! Photos by Tom Berg.



The HOW 2014 Awards-In-Craft Contest

The results are in! The winners of the 2014 Awards-In-Craft contest were announced at this year's annual conference in Indianapolis, IN, and we had a huge number of excellent entries. As usual, the writing portion of the contest garnered the most interest, as HOW members submitted a total of 82 entries from 11 different HOW members. Fewer members submitted writing entries this year when compared to 2013, so next year be sure to send in your entries! The photography contest included many excellent entries from six HOW members, and the Broadcast contest featured four entries from two 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 members participate!

Most of the competitions were very, very close. In the Writing Contest, only one point often separated a first place entry from a second place entry, etc. Many articles landed in 4th place by a mere point or two, also. Considering that each article could receive up to 200 points (100 from each of two judges), those were some close races!

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 2014. 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 always makes coordinating the entries/judges difficult, but the electronic entries really helped. The 2014 Awards-In-Craft coordinators were: John Trout, Jr. (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

Less Than 1000 Words

Hunting/Trapping

- 1st: Alan Garbers, "Indiana's Whitetail Stock Rising"
- 2nd: John Martino, "Hunting Squirrels is Tradition for Many"
- 3rd: John Martino, "Indiana's Deer Herd, A Tale of Two Sides"

Fishing

- 1st: Jack Spaulding, "The Caviar Connection"
- 2nd: Alan Garbers, "Webster's Spring Muskie"
- 2nd: John Martino, "Van Horn Leaves Lasting Legacy"

More Than 1000 Words

Hunting/Trapping

- 1st: John Martino, "Freedom Hunt Provides Lasting Memories"
- 2nd: Tom Berg, "Hotspots for Cold Weather Rabbits"
- 3rd: Paul Moore, "Mentor Hunt Brings Gloomy Skies and Bright Smiles"

Fishing

- 1st: Phil Bloom, "Sarge Goes Ballistic"
- 2nd: Tom Berg, "Indiana's Big River Blue Cats"
- 3rd: Alan Garbers, "The Underutilized Crayfish"

(Continued on next page)

Less Than 1000 Words

Conservation

- 1st: John Martino, "No Reason to Feel Blue with These Birds"
- 2nd: Jack Spaulding, "Looking for Nemo"
- 3rd: Mike Schoonveld, "Our Water, Our Treasure"

General Outdoors

- 1st: Jack Spaulding, "The Quest for Fire"
- 2nd: Alan Garbers, "The Crosley Monster"
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "Indiana: The Badger State?"

PHOTOGRAPHY

Hunting/Trapping

- 1st: Tom Berg, "Cornfield Coyote"
- 2nd: Tom Berg, "Best Friend"
- 3rd: John Maxwell, "Three Toms Strutting"

Outdoor Scenic

- 1st: Tom Berg, "Glorious Late Season Sunset"
- 2nd: John Maxwell, "Evening at Delaware Lake"
- 3rd: P.J. Perea, "Sunny Side"

BROADCAST

Best TV Broadcast

- 1st: P.J. Perea, "Late Season Deer Hunting"
- 2nd: P.J. Perea, "Leasing Hunting Properties,
- 3rd: -- No Entry --

More Than 1000 Words

Conservation

- 1st: Paul Moore, "Kentucky Quail Restoration, Part 1"
- 2nd: Paul Moore, "Kentucky Quail Restoration, Part 2"
- 3rd: P.J. Perea, "1973-2013: 40 Years of Conservation"

General Outdoors

- 1st: Alan Garbers, "A Beginner's Guide To Snorkeling Fun"
- 2nd: Tom Berg, "Unusual Uses for Our Wild Fur"
- 3rd: Paul Moore, "Keeping It Safe on the Water"

Fishing

- 1st: John Maxwell, "Summer Evening Fishing at Hardy Lake"
- 2nd: Tom Berg, "Rock-Hopping For Trout"
- 3rd: P.J. Perea, "Anticipation"

Outdoor Recreation

- 1st: John Maxwell, "Riding the Creekside Loop"
- 2nd: P.J. Perea, "Don't Eat Me!"
- 3rd: John Maxwell, "Kayaking on the Tippe"

Best Video

- 1st: John Maxwell, "Dunes State Park Sandcastle Building Contest"
- 2nd: John Maxwell, "Healthy Rivers Initiative/Sugar Creek, Wabash River Project"
- 3rd: -- No Entry --

CRAFT IMPROVEMENT

*This information was compiled by Daniel McElrath, former editor of Indiana Game & Fish magazine. He assembled this group of common errors to help some of his writers improve their writing skills. Read through the list and see if you are guilty of any of these errors. This is a continuation from the last newsletter, and since the list is pretty extensive we will continue this craft improvement piece in the July-August issue of **The Blade**, too.*

COMMON WRITING ERRORS & CORRECTIVE TIPS *

One rule that really confuses writers (but is actually rather simple) is the rule for when to capitalize job titles. If the specific job title is presented before the name of the person, it is capitalized. If it appears after the name, it isn't. Simple! For example: Fisheries Biologist Melvin Johnson; Melvin Johnson, fisheries biologist; Wildlife Restoration Project Manager Gene Newell; Gene Newell, Wildlife Restoration Project manager. Note the name of the program, project, division or department is always capitalized, but the job title isn't if it appears after the person's name

An easy way to remember the above rule is that you'd write "Sergeant Joe Smith ..." or "Joe Smith, a sergeant in the Army ..."

The words "lake," "dam," "national forest," "wildlife management area" and such are capitalized as part of the place's name. Example: Blue Lake, Cochran Dam, Flat Rock National Forest, Towering Oaks Wildlife Management Area. When multiple areas of a type are mentioned, however, do not capitalize such terms. Examples: Blue, Granite and Storm lakes; Flat Rock, Piney and Shady Grove national forests.

When writing state abbreviations within text (as opposed to providing a mailing address), do not use the two-letter postal abbreviation. Use the longer, old-fashioned abbreviation. For example: Tenn. (not TN), Calif. (not CA), Okla. (not OK), Ark. (not AR). Two-word state names take two-letter abbreviations, though. For example: New Mexico (N.M.) or New York (N.Y.).

Do not capitalize species or subspecies. For example: rainbow trout (not Rainbow Trout), largemouth bass (not Largemouth Bass), yellow perch (not Yellow Perch). The exception is if a species is named after a place name or a person. For example: Labrador retriever or Mearn's quail.

Do not capitalize the name of insects or forage (or types of fishing lures), but DO capitalize the name of flies and the brand names of lures. For example, cricket, frog, jig, worm and spinnerbait are not capitalized, but Wolly Bugger, Senko, Adams and Rattletrap are.

Write out the words "inches" and "feet." Don't try to use " and '. That's a quotation mark and an apostrophe, respectively. Also, write out the words "pounds" and "ounces." Don't abbreviate them.

Use the full name of a person when introducing them in an article. Thereafter, refer to them by their last name, unless they are a young child.

When including photos with your articles, it is always helpful to provide thorough, descriptive captions for each picture. If you refer to yourself in the caption, don't use your name. Just say "the author."

**Be aware, Game & Fish follows AP style (the AP Stylebook is available in most bookstores or online), with some exceptions and modifications. There are many terms peculiar to the outdoor market, so G&F has made its own rules in such cases and they are not universal to publishing or even to the outdoor press.*

*(To be continued in the July-August issue of **The Blade**.)*

DNR News

Division of Fish & Wildlife

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

For immediate release: June 10, 2014



Indiana Dunes State Park will restore rare habitat through joint effort

Indiana Dunes State Park will restore 32 acres of rare oak savanna habitat as part of a larger effort involving state and federal governments and a northwest Indiana conservation group.

An additional 1,045 acres of black oak savanna will be restored in Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Partners in the project are the state park, the DNR Division of Nature Preserves, the national lakeshore, and the Save the Dunes organization.

Work will begin this summer and continue through next summer.

Black oak savanna is a disappearing ecosystem. It's estimated that less than 0.02 percent of high quality oak savanna remains in the Midwest, a region that used to have an abundance of this ecosystem.

“Oak savannas are wonderfully unique and diverse habitats that support a range of important native plant and animal species such as the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly,” said Nicole Barker, executive director of Save the Dunes. “We are proud to work with the exceptional staff at the National Park Service and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to collaboratively restore an ecologically significant Indiana dunes resource back to health.”

The oak savannas being restored are near Trails 9 and 10 in the state park and in the Miller Woods and Tolleston Dunes units of the national lakeshore.

The remnant black oak savanna in the Indiana dunes is threatened by invasive plant species that limit the growth of native wildflowers and grasses. A savanna is unique because its trees are sparsely distributed, allowing growth of native wildflowers and grasses that require abundant sunlight.

The project will benefit both native wildlife and plants. In particular, the project will benefit the Karner blue butterfly that relies exclusively on oak savanna plants for survival. In recent years, the Karner blue butterfly population has declined drastically. Researchers are trying to isolate the cause. Until the cause of the decline is found, the national lakeshore is completing this project to ensure the best possible conditions for this species as well as other species that rely on the oak savanna.

During the restorations, visitors to the parks may notice equipment, woody debris piles and periodic noise. It may become necessary to close trails for a day or more to ensure visitor safety.

Media contact: Brandt Baughman, Indiana Dunes State Park, phone: 219-926-1952, email: bbaughman@dnr.IN.gov.

The Cumberland River Experience

Story and photos by Ken McBroom



Watercolor by Steve Ponsford

This year's HOW conference was my second one and it was a blast. I reconnected with a few members I met last year and met a couple new ones. We shared stories and laughs, and it was a great gathering of like-minded individuals who have a shared interest and a shared passion in the outdoors and writing.

Many people in my life wondered about my sanity early on when it came to fishing, but the best way I can describe it is to recall a fishing show on cable TV. A man was fighting a giant blue marlin, and in the middle of the fight with the marlin jumping and the drag screaming, the man yelled at the top of his lungs "everyone out there watching, please find a passion!" I recite that story anytime someone asks me why I fish so much and then I add that fishing has provided me an avenue paved with memories and experiences just like this trip to the Cumberland River.

Let me start by saying HOW President Bob Sawtelle and I enjoyed a great day of fishing on Lake Monroe shortly after the conference. While the fishing was slow, the experience was great. We shared stories of our days out west, he in Idaho and myself in Alaska. We did have a few things in common but what brought us together on Lake Monroe was fishing – and of course the HOW conference. Since I left Alaska to live down here in the lower 48 I have found that time is precious and it can be a challenge to make time to meet new people. So when Bob texted me and asked if I was interested in a trip to the Cumberland, I was in.

I researched the section of river where we were headed and gathered up my poles and reels and met Bob at his park in Corydon. It felt great finally getting together with a group of anglers and just fishing and hanging out. This was something I used to do on a regular basis in Alaska and even had a group of old timers that I fly fished with every summer around Wasilla, Alaska. They came from Minnesota, Massachusetts, South Dakota and other parts unknown, but we all had fun creating memories and experiencing our passion of fishing. And that is what the trip to the Cumberland was. You can read about one of those anglers from Alaska on my Rambling Angler website: www.ramblingangler.com/contactus/articles.html. It ties in well to this story and I didn't realize it until I read it again myself. It was written about ten years ago.



The mood was set from the start when HOW member Dean Shadley showed up on the banks of the Cumberland with his home-built custom boat. It was a small boat and obviously meant for fly fishing. It brought back memories of a canoe I fly fished from in Alaska and those memories of fly fishing with my friends. It left me wishing I would have had time to find all my fly fishing gear that has been packed away now for several years. The boat was a work of art, really, and I wanted one myself.

I talked with Dean about how he built it and I knew from looking at that boat that these guys were passionate anglers.

I knew it was going to be a good trip! In the end I was glad to be in Bob's flats boat because of the size of the river, but Dean and his entourage made it upriver to some skinnier water where they could wade. They caught trout and Bob and I enjoyed the stories and photos that evening at the cabin. (continued)

Everyone caught fish on our trip to the Cumberland, but there was far more to the experience than the fish we caught. There was the cabin we stayed in on the river which deserves an article all its own. The road to the cabin was a creek bed meandering through the woods, and the rustic decor might just help persuade your wife to take a trip to the Cumberland River. I know mine wants to go.



“Ranger” Bob Sawtelle with a nice Cumberland River smallmouth bass.

There was a momma wood duck nervously directing her two ducklings down the river bank where giant stripers lurk beneath – and that could be why she only had two to tend to. There was the kingfisher, my favorite bird, that swooped down to catch minnows and one that even followed alongside the boat as we motored for a great distance at 5 or 10mph. It followed us far enough that I mentioned to Bob it must be playing with us. There was also the cormorant rookery that let us know when we were in a good stretch of river where we had caught some fish.



One experience in particular that I wish we all could have enjoyed was when two big stripers rose to engulf my swimbait. One of them got it and the other was actually trying to eat it off the side of the other’s mouth. This memory was but seconds long but one of those that moves in slow motion and will forever be etched in my mind for as long as I live. That striper was successfully landed and it was my first

since I was a teenager.

There was one thing I really wanted to see while on the Cumberland and it finally happened. When big stripers feed on the surface it’s like an explosion. This activity is a memory, an experience, from those days of old when I chased stripers, or rockfish as we called them in Tennessee. I still recall those explosions that signaled to us, back in the day, that it was going to be worth the trouble we were in for skipping class to try and catch one. It was the middle of the day and it only lasted a few seconds but it was awesome. A school of big stripers hammered some skipjack a couple hundred yards upriver. The sound was unmistakable and the adrenaline unstoppable.

Bob asked me sometime during our trip why I joined HOW and I just looked at him and said: “For the experience, Bob. Thanks.”

Author’s Note: *I want to thank Bob Sawtelle for his impeccable boat control and his superb netmanship. I couldn’t have done it without you.*

Ken McBroom shown at right with his trophy-sized striped bass. It gave him a battle he won’t forget!



HOW Member News

Alan and Dianna Garbers Look to the West For Fun and Adventure in Arizona's Navajo Nation

"I love the west," said Alan Garbers. "The scent of sage and piñon pines drifting across the high desert of the Colorado Plateau calls to me, if only in my memories. I long to hike the canyons and explore the remains of civilizations long past, so it was a dream come true to hike down into Canyon de Chelly in late May."

"Canyon de Chelly is a US National Monument that is located in the Navajo Nation of Arizona," continued Garbers. "The history of the canyon goes back thousands of years and the remains of Anasazi ruins still dot the cliff walls and floors, the most famous of which is White House Ruins. Tucked into an alcove in the canyon wall, the ruins are just a tantalizing piece of what was once a large pueblo complex. What is truly unusual is a solitary room that, unlike the rest of the remains, is whitewashed."

"It isn't known what drove the builders of the complex away, but it was long-empty when the Navajo moved into the fertile valley floor hundreds of years later. They respected the ruins and made homes of their own while tending flocks of sheep and horses. The climate was perfect for growing peaches and by the mid 1800s they had many orchards in the canyon."

"Due to clashes with settlers the US Army was sent in to subdue the Navajo people in the 1860s. The many hiding places of the canyon provided sanctuary for the Navajo until their friend turned foe, Kit Carson, turned on them and led the army into the canyon. Using a scorched earth policy they slew livestock, destroyed crops, and chopped down the precious peach trees, driving the Navajo people into starvation. In desperation the Navajo surrendered and were force-marched hundreds of miles to Fort Sumner, in their Trail of Tears."



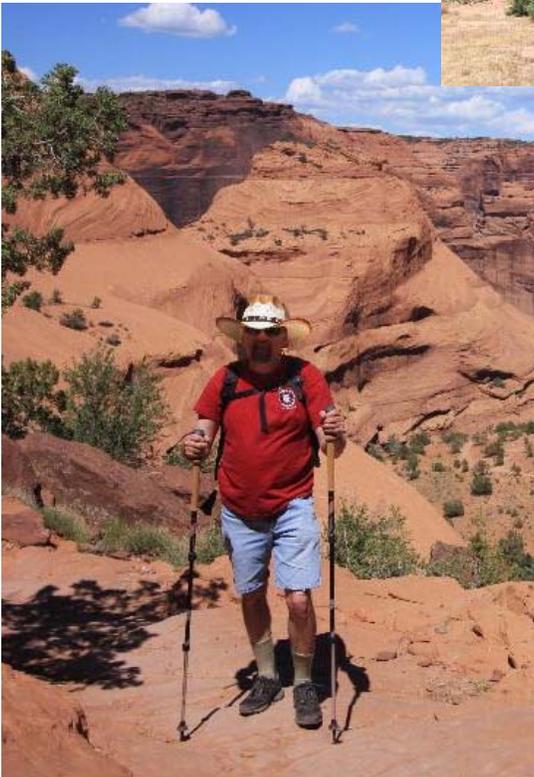
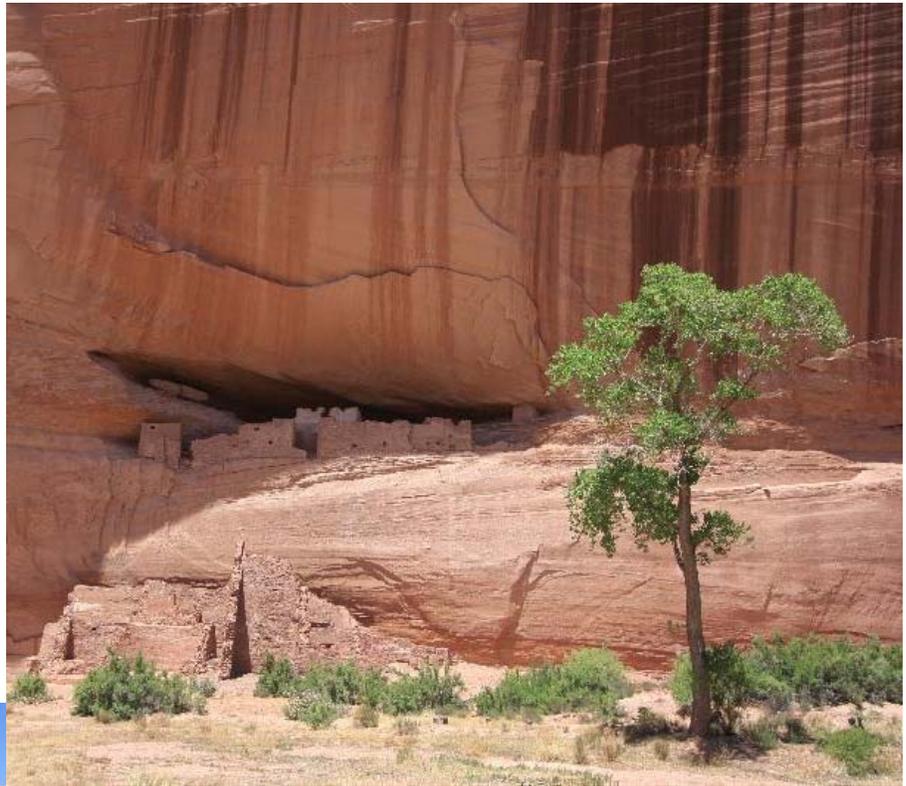
Breath-taking vistas are commonplace in Canyon de Chelly.

(continued next page)

“After years of misery the Navajo people vowed to never take up arms, provided they could return to Dinetah, their homeland, and that is where they reside today.”

“The Navajo still live in the canyon much as they did then. The only way in is by way of four-wheel drive dirt tracks, or by hiking. Simple traditional dwellings, known as hogans, can still be seen with their doorways facing east to greet the morning sun.”

“The hike that Dianna and I took led us from White House Ruin overlook down to the canyon floor 600-feet below using a well-traveled but rugged trail. The hike is two and a half miles long and was strenuous at



Alan Garbers stops to admire the view during his recent Arizona adventure. Photo by Dianna Garbers. Other AZ photos by Alan and Dianna Garbers.

times (it took us about three hours), but the views were breath-taking. In places the trail had been carved out of the solid rock.”

“We came prepared with proper shoes and clothing, sun block, trekking poles and water,” said Garbers.

“Since the Navajo own the canyon they are allowed to drive vehicles in and out on a limited basis. They make full use of the line of pilgrims hiking to the ruins by offering cold soft drinks, jewelry, pottery and hand-woven rugs.”

“Since we were so close we also drove out to the Spider Rock Overlook. Spider Rock is sacred to the Navajo and is the birthplace of Spider Woman, a deity that taught the Navajo how to weave. The formation has been the background or focal point of many westerns.”

Editor’s note:

*Thanks for sharing your story and photos Alan and Dianna. It looks like it was another great trip out west! **HOW members:** Be sure to check out the blurb on page 26 about Alan’s recent article about Hopi Katsina doll carvers in the summer 2014 issue of Woodcarving Illustrated magazine. Very interesting!*



Jeff Hammond Debuts New Photography Website

Past HOW board member Jeff Hammond has been very busy with his photography business lately, and one of the things he has been working on is a new website. And it's finally ready! Please check it out at: www.jghphoto.com. He even has a link to the HOW website from his page.

Jeff now lives in St. Matthews, SC, and his services include wildlife photography, wedding photography, portraits, family events, sports, models, corporate photo shoots and more.

Besides his regular photo shoot gigs, Jeff also conducts photography seminars and classes. In May he was the presenter for a meeting of the South Carolina Nature Photographers Association in Hilton Head. He gave a talk and image show on his trip to the Falkland Islands.

Besides his newly improved website, you can also check out Jeff's work or visit him on Facebook or LinkedIn:

www.jghphoto.com

www.facebook.com/HammondPhoto

<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/jeff-hammond/57/247/264>

Gary Redmon Finds Success In Snapping Turtle Venture!

Past HOW board member Gary Redmon certainly has the makings for some fine turtle soup! He recently caught five good-sized snapping turtles in two days on his "turtle line". As soup connoisseurs know, snapping turtle meat makes great soup.



Snapping turtles are quite common and keeping a few for the table can actually help the local population by preventing overcrowding. Big snappers also often pose a threat in small ponds where they attack resident ducks and geese.

Snapping turtles have an extremely powerful bite, so keep your fingers away from their mouth. Snappers can even bite down on objects for a surprisingly long time after death, too.

As they used to say in the old Three Stooges comedy routine: "Get me some soup, and make it snappy!"



Alan Garbers Featured in Woodcarving Illustrated Magazine



Alan Garbers has always been interested in Native American art, and he put that interest to work in one of his recent articles. For the Summer 2014 issue of *Woodcarving Illustrated* magazine, he wrote about a Hopi woodcarver he knows named Mavasta Honyouti. Honyouti is a master woodcarver who makes traditional Hopi Katsina dolls from the roots of special trees – cottonwood trees.

“I know a few Hopi carvers that make Katsina dolls out of cottonwood roots,” said Garbers. He trades with them every year, bringing a supply of the sought-after cottonwood roots and trading them for finished Katsina dolls or plaques.

In the article about Honyouti and his artwork, Garbers described many of the different Katsina dolls and some of the history of the Hopi carvers. The article was illustrated by several photos of Honyouti’s work, too, and they looked great. “The photos of the carvings were taken by Mavasta himself – with his cell phone,” exclaimed Garbers. “So why do I have an expensive SLR again?”

When asked if he would ever consider trading any of the Hopi artwork that he has received, Garbers had a very quick answer. “Sorry, but I’m keeping each and every item in my collection. However, I can tell you how to trade directly with the Hopi carvers if you want to make the trip down to Indy during the Indian Arts Market each June.”

Hey – that sounds like a great idea!

Phil Bloom Elected to OWAA Board

The Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA) membership recently elected three new members to their board of directors: **Phil Bloom** (Indiana), Sam Caldwell (Texas) and Kris Millgate (Idaho). Bloom will take his board seat with the other directors at the 2014 OWAA annual conference in McAllen, Texas.

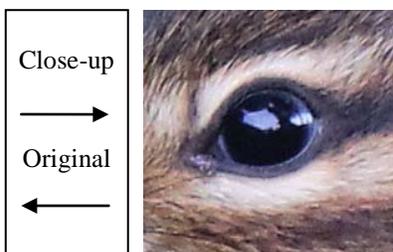
Bloom is a past-president of OWAA and a past-president of HOW, as well. He is also a past OWAA secretary and board member. Currently, he is the communications director for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and previously worked 33 years in the newspaper business. He was an award-winning outdoors editor for 16 years at the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, which twice was named OWAA Newspaper Outdoor Page Award Best Outdoors Page during his tenure. He received one of OWAA’s highest honors in 2013 – the J. Hammond Brown Award “for devoted past service to the organization.”



The Katsina above and the plaque to the left were carved from cottonwood roots by Hopi master carver Mavasta Honyouti (and painted by him, too). Both photos were taken by Honyouti, also.

Unusual Nature Photos From The Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Hunter's Specialties

The Eastern Chipmunk Digs and Climbs



The “What is it?” photo from the most recent issue was a little easier than usual, and this time ten HOW members correctly identified it. John Maxwell, Ken McBroom, Troy McCormick, Alan Garbers, Phil Bloom, Phil Seng, Bill Keaton, Mike Schoonveld, Jack Spaulding and Rich Creason each had

the right answer. When we drew a name at random for the **Plano** tackle pack and **Frabill** landing net, John Maxwell was the winner. Congrats, John! We'll make sure they are sent to you.

As you can see in the photo (at left), the mystery creature for this issue was an Eastern Chipmunk (*Tamias Striatus*). Chipmunks are easy to identify:

Their short fur is mostly brown, with five dark stripes and two much lighter (almost white) stripes running along their back. There are also lighter-colored stripes around their eyes.

These small ground-dwelling mammals can climb trees with ease, but they prefer to live in underground burrows they excavate themselves. Chipmunks will eat a variety of foods, including seeds, berries, nuts, fruit, insects and plant bulbs. They have even been known to eat snails, worms and small bird eggs. They love to search the ground for fallen seeds beneath backyard bird feeders, and they often stuff pouches in their cheeks full of seeds before scampering off into the bushes. They can sometimes be heard chattering as they gather food, and the name chipmunk was likely derived from the “chip-chip” squeak that they make to each other as they feed and play.

For this issue, our friends at **Hunter's Specialties** have agreed to provide a very nice prize package 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 special package of Hunter's Specialties Scent-A-Way products and Scent-Safe Travel Bags. See below 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. You might see it in your back yard, and it can be found throughout the state. Have you ever seen a creature that looks like this? Can you guess what it is?



This creature may be difficult for some to identify, but we'll see. Do you know of any Hoosier creatures that look like this? This time you must identify the exact species. If you think it's a particular species of snake, for example, go ahead and guess “Copperhead”. Of course, it's not a copperhead, but if you think you know what it is, send the answer via email to thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you are right, you will be eligible for this issue's prize.



As mentioned above, **Hunter's Specialties** will be donating a special prize package of Scent-A-Way products and Scent-Safe Travel Bags as a prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue's “What Is It?” question. There will also be a couple packages of CAMO OFF makeup remover wipes for hunters who like to go “Full Camo” when in the woods! If multiple people guess the right answer, we'll draw one winner at random from the group of correct entries. Good luck! All nature photos on this page by Tom Berg.

HOW Supporting Member News

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

Crosman Corporation's Nitro 2 Piston Named "Most Innovative"



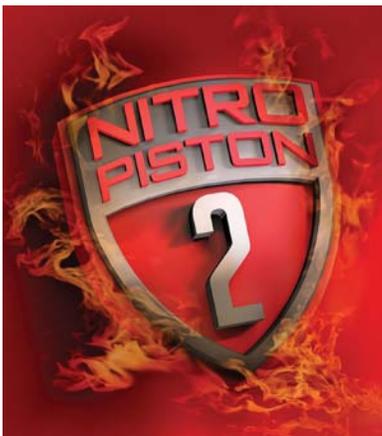
Blue Book of Gun Values
2014 TOP TEN
Firearms Industry Awards

Rochester, NY: Crosman Corporation's innovative, new break barrel airgun design featuring Nitro Piston 2 technology has been announced as a winner by the Blue Book of Gun Values in its inaugural Firearms Industry Awards for the system's unique patent-pending components and overall design.

According to Blue Book Publications, Inc., "Every year, arms makers and others in the firearms industry roll out their best and brightest new products at the annual SHOT Show. It always seems that there are a handful of standout new guns and products that either rewrite the book on the physics of gun-making, or dazzle us with unorthodox engineering. Crosman's Nitro Piston 2 powered airguns have been selected as one of the most innovative new products of the year." The award was presented to Crosman during the National Rifle Association's Annual Meetings in May.

"Our goal with Nitro Piston 2 has always been to deliver a game-changing break barrel platform to shooters, and Crosman has dedicated a significant amount of time, money, and resources over the past few years to make that happen," said Crosman Vice President of Marketing, Jennifer Lambert. "It's an honor to have that effort recognized by Blue Book and we can't wait for consumers to experience it for themselves when the all-new Benjamin Trail Nitro Piston 2 guns launch this spring," she said.

Over \$1 million and thousands of man-hours of research went into the development of the most advanced break barrel piston system on the planet. The precision engineered piston delivers more speed and power while reducing the cocking effort, topped off with an incredibly crisp trigger. The result is a shooting experience that is simply unexpected in a break barrel air rifle. Only Crosman could build Nitro Piston 2 and they're doing it right here in America.



For more info on Nitro Piston 2 technology, visit www.crosman.com/NP2 or contact Corporate Communications Manager Chip Hunnicutt, Crosman Corporation, 7629 Routes 5 & 20, Bloomfield, NY 14469. Email: chunnicutt@crosman.com or call him at (800) 7-AIRGUN (724-7486).

For over 90 years Crosman has led the world in the design and manufacture of airguns and airgun ammunition, along with airsoft, optics and shooting sports accessories. Headquartered in Bloomfield, N.Y., the company sells its products worldwide under the Crosman®, Benjamin®, CenterPoint®, Game Face® and Undead Apocalypse® brands. For more information about any of these brands or products, please visit www.crosman.com.

For up-to-the-minute news from Crosman, follow them on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/crosmancorp>) and Facebook (<http://facebook.com/crosmancorp>).

HOW Supporting Member News

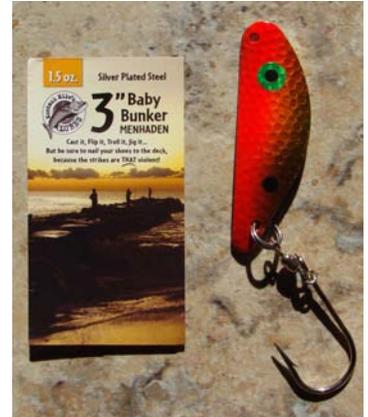


Montauk Mike's Lures Not Just For The East Coast!

Red Bank, NJ: Montauk Mike's Lure Co., the makers of Baby Bunker spoons, Pencil Poppers, Peanut Bunker Poppers and others – is well-known to saltwater anglers on the east coast. These lures catch striped bass, bluefish and a host of other saltwater fish species. But they are also very effective on a wide variety of freshwater fish in Indiana and other places, too.

The famous Baby Bunker spoon does a great job of imitating a young gizzard shad or alewife on Lake Michigan. Shore fishermen can use this heavy casting spoon to catch coho salmon, chinook salmon, brown trout and steelhead when fishing the harbors and breakwalls during the spring and fall. Reservoir anglers can use them as shad imitators on Lake Monroe, Patoka, Morse, Geist and other reservoirs to tempt trophy largemouth bass. On big waterways like the Ohio River, they can catch largemouth bass, sauger, hybrid stripers – even oversized blue catfish.

Montauk Mike's topwater poppers are excellent lures for both largemouth and smallmouth bass, too. The newest offering is a revolutionary new metal tube rattling topwater popper. For more information, please contact Mike Matulonis, phone: 732-618-3950, email: Michael.Matulonis@gmail.com.



Mack's Lures Still Producing State Record-Sized Fish

Wenatchee, WA: It's getting to be a familiar story. New gamefish size records just keep on coming. At least they do for a growing tackle company located in eastern Washington State. The company is Mack's Lure, and it has been producing world-famous fishing lures since 1969.

Mack's Lure's unique products already hold state or national weight records for gamefish caught in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and North Carolina. Now you can officially add California to the list and it looks like the same fish will grab the top spot for Nevada as well.

The new California record is for kokanee salmon. The record fish was caught by angler Bill Brush from Nevada City, CA. The fish weighed 5-pounds, 2-ounces and was caught from Lake Tahoe. Brush was fishing with a veteran Lake Tahoe guide Scott Carey when he hooked his record breaker. Carey is a kokanee-catching expert who has been showing Lake Tahoe anglers how to put fish in the boat for the past 23 years.

As has happened before, the new record California kokanee was caught on a Mack's Lure Double Whammy Wedding Ring lure. Mack's Lure markets several varieties of this record-setting lure, and they have already put multiple new Oregon kokanee size records in the boat, too.



Carey said the new record has already been certified by California fish authorities. He is expecting the same result for the State of Nevada. The waters of Lake Tahoe cover parts of two counties in California and three counties in Nevada.

For more details on the many different Mack's Lure products, contact Director of Sales & Marketing Bobby Loomis at 509-667-9373 or by email at bloomis@mackslure.com. Also, please check the Mack's Lure website at: www.mackslure.com.

HOW Supporting Member News



Brownells Chairman Frank Brownell Receives Golden Bullseye Pioneer Award

Montezuma, IA: Frank Brownell, Chairman of the Board of Brownells, was recognized by the National Rifle Association with the Golden Bullseye Pioneer Award on Friday, April 25, 2014, at a special breakfast during the 143rd NRA Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Golden Bullseye Pioneer Award is presented by NRA Publications, and recognizes unique, long-tenured individuals who have made a significant impact on the firearms and hunting communities by introducing new and innovative products and solutions. Brownell, the 12th recipient, joins Dick and Jim Cabela, Steve Hornady, Ronnie Barrett, Melvin Forbes and other well-known industry leaders who've also been so honored.



Frank Brownell (center) is congratulated by Doug Hamlin, Executive Director, NRA Publications (left) and Frank's son Pete Brownell (right).

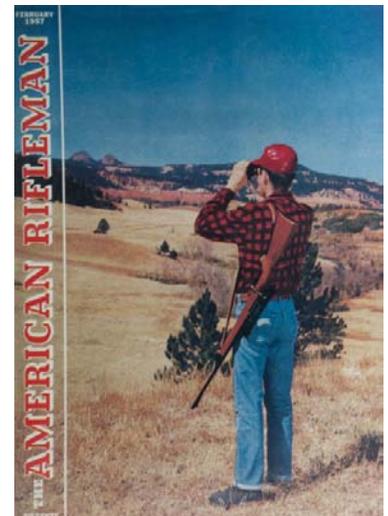
“Frank Brownell’s half-century in the business of supplying all the gear gun enthusiasts need and want epitomizes what the Golden Bullseye Pioneer award is all about,” said John Zent, Director of NRA Publications. “The Pioneers are a select group of tenured, shooting-industry high-achievers whose life’s work paved the way for the rest of us, and who are committed to supporting NRA’s mission. Frank’s service to America’s shooters, always adhering to the company creed of ‘Service. Selection. Satisfaction.’ - has helped to keep us all on target.”

Brownell, who will turn 75 this June, is best known for his leadership of the 75-year-old Brownells, the Iowa-based supplier of firearms accessories, gunsmithing tools, and now archery and survival gear. Outside of his company, Brownell is president of the NRA Foundation and is active on the NRA Youth Committee and Whittington Center boards.

Furthermore, his deep love for and commitment to the NRA Whittington Center in Raton, NM, led to his building the Frank R. Brownell Museum of the Southwest. It features guns from the period and from famous shooters, and helps visitors learn about the firearms and battles that helped shape the great American Southwest. One of the four museums in the NRA family of museums, its rotating displays contain famous firearms from the NRA Firearms Museum in Fairfax, VA.

“I’m tremendously honored to have been chosen for this award,” said Brownell. “It’s a great privilege to join the others who are Pioneer Award winners - some mighty big names in the group. I want to thank the editors of the NRA Publications for selecting me, but I most especially want to thank the whole Brownells crew, past and present, for helping Brownells grow into what it is today, and for making me look famous.”

In addition to his Pioneer Award, Zent presented Brownell with a poster-sized copy of the February 1957 cover of *American Rifleman* magazine which depicted a then 17-year-old Frank Brownell, on his first guided hunt in the Crazy Woman Creek area of northeast Wyoming. He had a rifle slung on his shoulder, glassing a scenic landscape.



Frank Brownell on the cover of the *American Rifleman* in 1957.

For more information, contact Larry Weeks at Brownells by phone (641-623-8071) or via email: larry.weeks@brownells.com. You may also visit their website at: www.brownells.com.

HOW's Supporting Member Websites

A&C Air Pellets - www.air-pellets.com
Alpen Optics - www.alpenoutdoor.com
Aquateko International - www.aquateko.com
Arctic Ice - www.arcticicellc.com
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Barnes Bullets - www.barnesbullets.com
Bass Assassin Lures - www.bassassassin.com
Bass Pro Shops - www.basspro.com
Battenfeld Technologies - www.battenfeldtechnologies.com
Bear & Son Cutlery - www.bearandson.com
Better Bank Anglers - www.betterbankanglers.com
Birchwood Casey - www.birchwoodcasey.com
Black River Tools - www.blackrivertools.com
Blackpowder Products, Inc. - www.cva.com
BoatUS - www.boatus.com
Brownells, Inc. - www.brownells.com
Bubba Blade Knives - www.bubbablade.com
Buck Knives - www.buckknives.com
Buckeye Shad Baits - www.buckeyeshad.com
Burford Books - www.burfordbooks.com
Bushnell - www.bushnell.com
Cabela's - www.cabelas.com
Camp Chef - www.campchef.com
Church Tackle Company - www.churchtackle.com
Clam Outdoors - www.clamoutdoors.com
Cocoons Eyewear - www.cocooneyewear.com
Cortland Line Co. - www.cortlandline.com
Costa Sunglasses - www.costadelmar.com
Cotton Carrier - www.cottoncarrier.com
Crappie Pro - www.crappiepro.com
Crosman Corporation - www.crosman.com
Cyclops Solutions - www.cyclopsolutions.com
Eagle Claw - www.eagleclaw.com
Environ-Metal, Inc. - www.hevishot.com
E/T Lights - www.triagelights.com
Federal Premium Ammunition - www.federalpremium.com
Filson Corporation - www.filson.com
Flying Fisherman - www.flyingfisherman.com
FOXPRO - www.qfofoxpro.com
Frabill - www.frabill.com
Freedom Group Companies - www.freedom-group.com
Frogg Toggs - www.froggtoggs.com
G.Loomis - www.gloomis.com
Gamo USA - www.gamoussa.com
Gerber Legendary Blades - www.gerbergear.com
Gun Protect - www.mygunprotect.com
Hart Productions - www.hartproductions.com
Hawke Sport Optics - www.hawkeoptics.com
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - www.henryrepeating.com
HHA Sports - www.HHAsports.com
Hickory Glen Creations - www.g-p-a-s.com
High Roller Lures - www.highrollerlures.com
Hodgdon Powder Co. - www.hodgdon.com
Hoosier Trapper Supply - www.hoosiertrappersupply.com
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - www.hmhc.com
Howard Communications - www.howardcommunications.com
HT Enterprises - www.icefish.com
Hunter's Specialties - www.hunterspec.com
IMPELtronics - www.impeltronics.com
Indiana Office of Tourism Development - www.VisitIndiana.com
Indiana Outdoor News - www.IndianaOutdoorNews.net
Irish Setter Boots - www.irishsetterboots.com
JB Lures - www.jblures.com
Johnson Outdoors, Inc. - www.johnsonoutdoors.com
Koppers Fishing & Tackle - www.livetargetlures.com
Kruger Optical - www.krugeroptical.com
LensPen - www.lenspen.com
Leupold - www.leupold.com
Lodge Manufacturing - www.lodgemfg.com
Lurecraft Industries - www.lurecraft.com
Mack's Lure - www.mackslure.com
Mathews - www.mathewsinc.com
Mercury Marine - www.mercurymarine.com
Mossy Oak - www.mossyoak.com
MyTopo - www.mytopo.com
National Shooting Sports Foundation - www.nssf.org
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - www.mossberg.com
Off Shore Tackle Co. - www.offshoretackle.com
Okuma Fishing Tackle - www.okumafishing.com
Otis Technology - www.otistec.com
Outdoor Promotions - www.crappieusa.com
Pelican Products - www.pelican.com
Plano Molding Company - www.planomolding.com
Princeton University Press - www.press.princeton.edu
Pro-Cure, Inc. - www.pro-cure.com
Pure Fishing - www.purefishing.com
Quaker Boy, Inc. - www.quakerboygamecalls.com
R.L. Winston Rod Co. - www.winstonrods.com
Reef Runner Lures - www.reefrunner.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
RIO Products - www.rioproducts.com
Savage Arms - www.savagearms.com
Shimano American Corp. - www.shimano.com
Shurhold Industries - www.shurhold.com
Snag Proof Manufacturing - www.snagproof.com
South Shore CVA - www.southshorecva.com
Speedhook Specialists - www.speedhook.com
Speedy Sharp - www.fetznerspeedysharp.net
SportDOG - www.sportdog.com
St. Croix Rods - www.stcroixrods.com
Streamlight - www.streamlight.com
Tales End Tackle - www.talesendtackle.com
Tenzing - www.tenzingoutdoors.com
ThermaCELL - www.thermacell.com
Tink's - www.tinks.com
Toyota Motor Sales - www.toyotanewsroom.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - www.ttiblakemore.com
Umarex USA - www.umarexUSA.com
Vexilar, Inc. - www.vexilar.com
Visit Indy - www.VisitIndy.com
W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery - www.wrcase.com
WaveSpin Reels - www.wavespinreel.com
Weatherby - www.weatherby.com
White Flyer Targets - www.whiteflyer.com
Winchester Ammunition - www.winchester.com
Wrangler Rugged Wear - www.wranglerruggedwear.com
Xtreme Hardcore Gear - www.extremehardcoregear.com
Yo-Zuri America - www.yo-zuri.com
Z-Man Fishing Products - www.zmanfishing.com
Zippo Manufacturing - www.zippo.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:

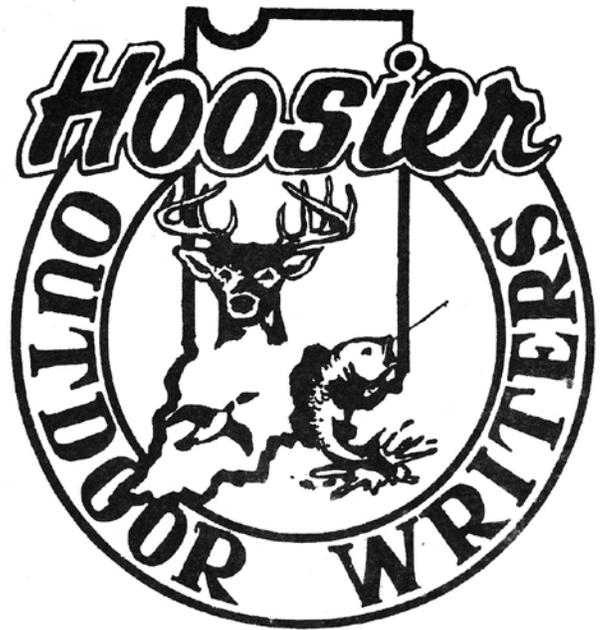
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor 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; fishing guides and tournament anglers, 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 2014: (www.ICASTfishing.org) Orlando, FL	July 15-18, 2014
AGLOW 2014 Annual Conference: (www.aglowinfo.org) Marshall County, KY	September 15-18, 2014
SEOPA 2014 Annual Conference: (www.seopa.org) Fontana Village, NC	October 8-11, 2014
SHOT Show 2015: (http://shotshow.org) Las Vegas, NV	January 20-23, 2015
POMA 2015 Annual Conference: (www.professionalooutdoormedia.org) Springfield, MO	March 18-21, 2015
NRA 2015 Annual Meeting: (www.professionalooutdoormedia.org) Nashville, TN	April 10-12, 2015
HOW 2015 Annual Conference: (www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org) Site to be announced	May, 2015 (Exact date to be announced)
OWAA 2015 Annual Conference: (www.aglowinfo.org) Knoxville, TN	June 26-28, 2015

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.