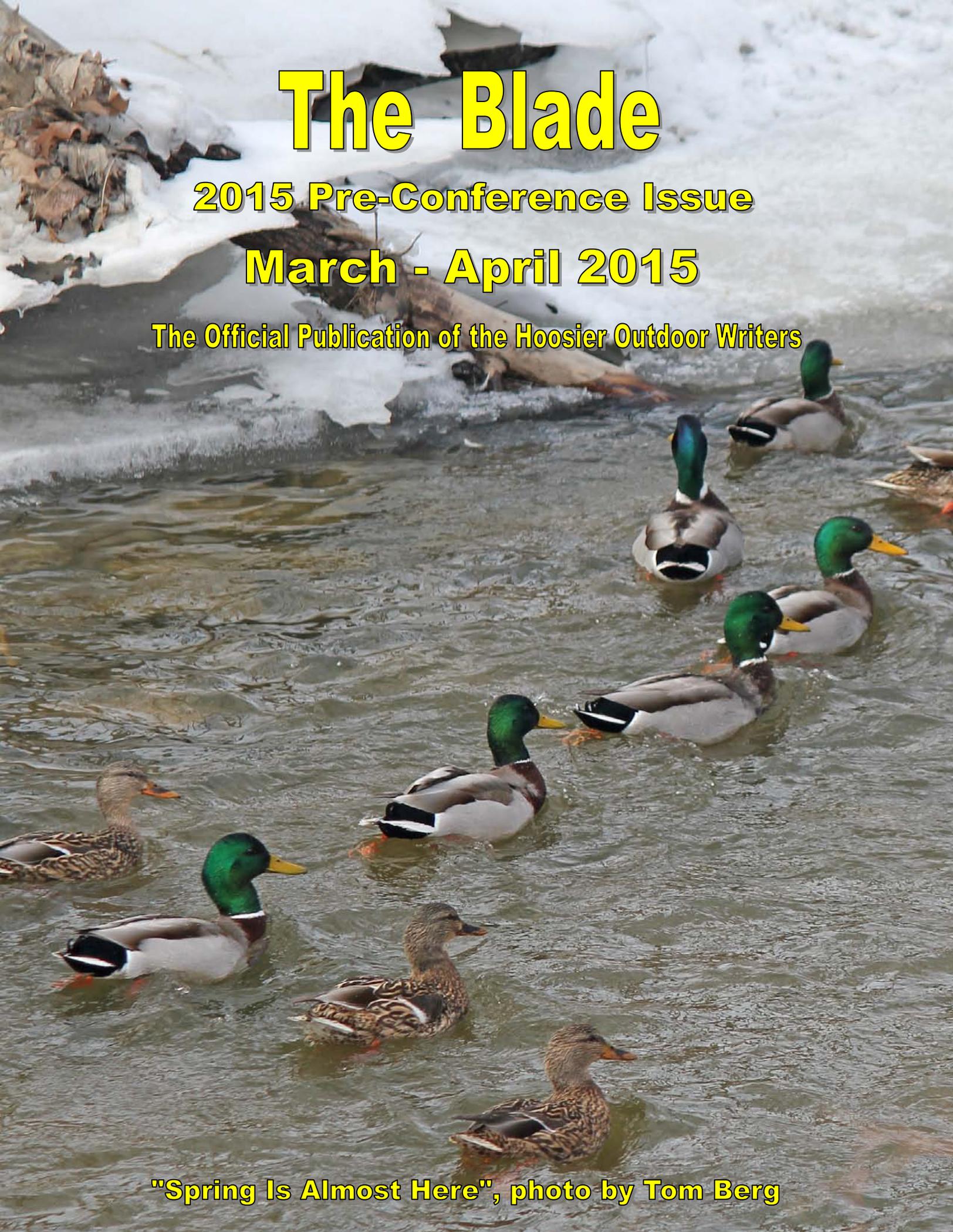


The Blade

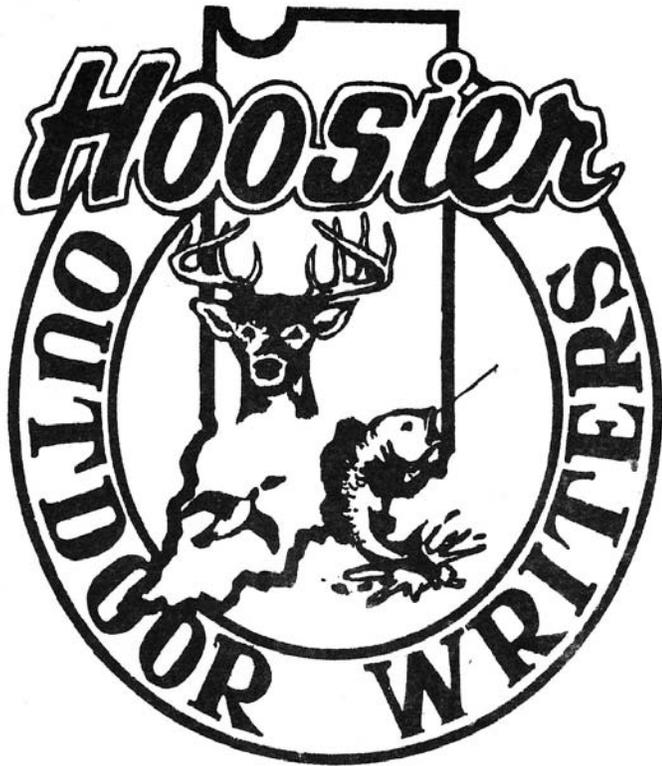
2015 Pre-Conference Issue

March - April 2015

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Spring Is Almost Here", 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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2016
Region 3 – OPEN
2015
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2016

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Gene Clifford – 2016
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All submissions and correspondence in regards to the newsletter should be directed to: Tom Berg (e-mail: director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org), or to Tom Berg, 2142 Nondorf St., Dyer, IN 46311. Portions of this newsletter may be reproduced only with the permission of the Hoosier Outdoor Writer's Executive Board and/or the permission of the original author or authors submitting the material. HOW website: www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org.

On the cover: A group of mallard ducks (drakes and hens) swim in the icy waters of a newly-opened creek. Like the rest of us, they are glad that this past winter is finally behind us! Tom Berg photo.

President's Message

by "Ranger" Bob Sawtelle

"SPRING RENEWAL"

I write this from Geer's Spring Campground in Alton, MO. It is almost spring and I am here recharging my batteries and casting flies for wild rainbow trout and smallmouth bass on the Eleven Point River. It isn't easy working on this between casts, but someone has to do it!



All good things must come to an end. What fun I have had being the President of HOW. Thank you all for this rewarding and valued learning experience. I most appreciate the guidance and mentoring I received from Mr. Tom Berg, our executive director.

My presidential report topics included:

January/February 2015 "Preparing for the Coming Season"

November/December 2014 "November's Harvest and Tomorrow's Need"

September/October 2014 "Build Your Outdoor Network"

July/August 2014 "Crying Eyes and Smiling Faces"

May/June 2014 "Share that Next Outdoor Experience"

Remember: Recruit, create and mentor the next generation of Hoosier Outdoor Writers and please make that professional and personal commitment to help recruit the next generation of young Hoosier outdoor enthusiasts, too.

Alan Garbers will have the helm for 2015/2016; his fresh leadership offers HOW a renewal of spirit and direction. I'll see you at the conference at Pokagon State Park.

Best,

Ranger Bob

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

**See membership changes
and updated info on page 21.**

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
John Trout, Jr.
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
Bob Sawtelle	2014

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Annual Conference Registration



The Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park, Ft. Wayne, IN – April 10-12, 2015

This registration form is for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 11th
(8:00am – 4:30pm)

Information to appear on name badge:

Name: _____ Spouse's name (if attending): _____

Title: _____

Contact information:

Mailing Address: _____

City or Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Are you a first-time HOW conference attendee? _____

Conference Registration Fees:

HOW Members (and spouses): \$30.00 each (\$30 X number attending) = _____

Non-HOW Members: \$35.00 each (\$35 X number attending) = _____

NOTE: If you pay the conference fee at the door in April, the fee will be \$35.00 each.

Conference fee includes continental breakfast and buffet lunch on April 11, 2015.

Please print this application and mail it along with your check for each person attending (make checks payable to "Hoosier Outdoor Writers") to:

**Tom Berg
HOW Conference
2142 Nondorf Street
Dyer, IN 46311-1829**

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



The Annual HOW Fun Shoot



The 2015 HOW Conference will begin (as usual) with the HOW Fun Shoot. It has become a tradition for the shooters in our membership to get together and break a few clay targets, have some fun and renew old friendships on the Friday before the Annual Meeting. Some of our participants are experienced shooters while others are new to the sport and are still learning. All skill levels are welcome, and the “senior” members are always willing to help newcomers.

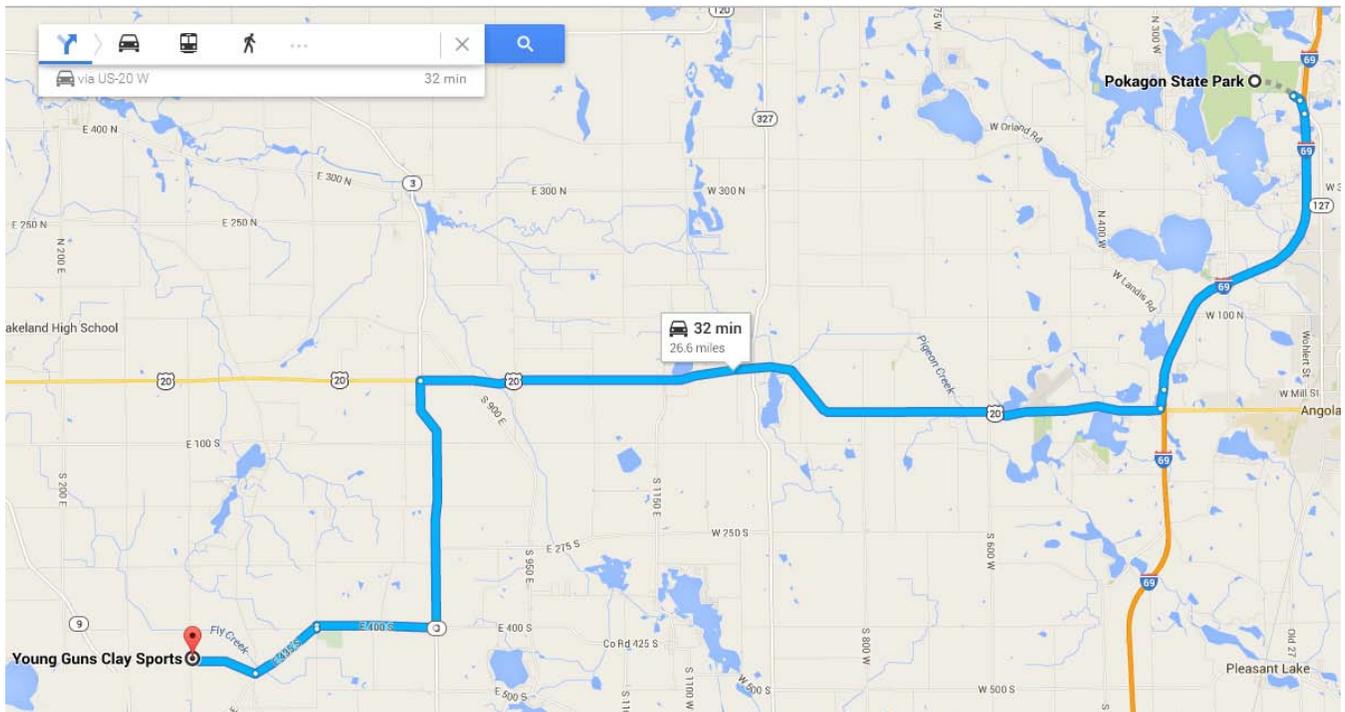
Since the 2015 HOW Conference will be held at Pokagon State Park near Angola, we will be visiting the **Young Guns Clay Sports** in nearby Wolcottville, IN. The address is 3975 South 400 East, Wolcottville, IN 46795. The phone number there is 260-350-2835.

We will meet on Friday, April 10 at 12:30pm (eastern daylight time) and start shooting at 1:00pm. That should give us plenty of time to finish shooting and get to Pokagon State Park to check in and get ready for our “Friday Evening Barbecue”.

This year we will be shooting a round of sporting clays (100 targets), and this course should be great fun. They have 10 stations in and around the woods with two elevated stands, simulated quail targets and a rabbit station. If you have never shot sporting clays, you will definitely gain some lasting memories in the great outdoors. And that’s what it’s all about, right?

The cost for the shoot will be \$30, which you can pay to the club’s cashier when we arrive. Ammunition will be complimentary, as HOW Supporting Member Winchester will be providing the shotshells to all of the participating shooters free of charge. So come on out and join the fun!

See the map below for directions to the gun club, or type **Young Guns Clay Sports** into Google Maps or your smartphone.



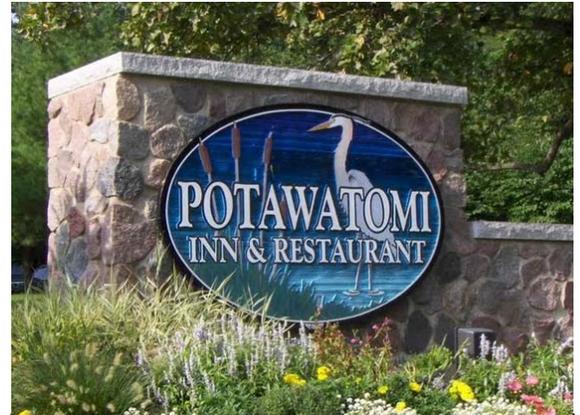
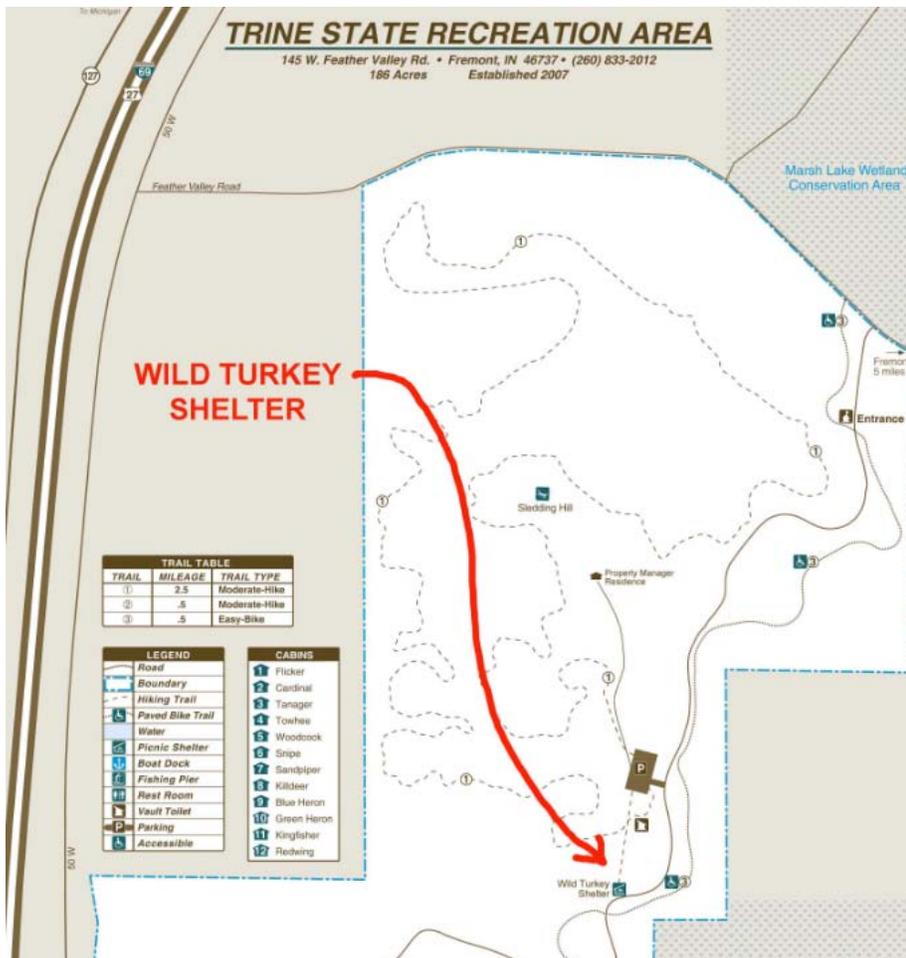
2015 HOW Conference Preview

HOW Conference Attendees Explore Pokagon State Park!

This year's annual HOW Conference will take place on the weekend of April 10-12, 2015 at Pokagon State Park near Fort Wayne, IN. Have you been to a HOW meeting lately? This will be another great conference, so make sure you attend this year!

The weekend activities will begin with the annual HOW Fun Shoot on Friday, April 10. All HOW members who enjoy the shooting sports should consider joining us this year! Fun Shoot coordinator Mike Schoonveld tells us we will be shooting sporting clays at the Young Guns shooting range in nearby Wolcottville, IN. Their 10-station sporting clays course should be a lot of fun, for novice and expert shooters alike! More info on the Fun Shoot is on the previous page.

Everyone who arrives at Pokagon State Park on Friday evening is invited to attend a special barbecue dinner that we are planning. We will meet at the Wild Turkey Shelter at 6:00pm at Trine State Recreation Area, which is located adjacent to Pokagon SP (see map below). Our friends at Steuben County Tourism are sponsoring the barbecue, and there will be plenty to eat and drink. It will be a great opportunity to see old friends and make some new ones. All HOW Conference attendees and their spouses are invited.



The Potawatomi Inn Resort and Conference center at Pokagon State Park will host the 2015 HOW Conference. We will meet at the famous Lake James Ball Room on Saturday, April 11, 2015.

Trine State Recreation Area (SRA) is located right across Interstate 69 from Pokagon State Park.

From Pokagon, take route 727 out of the park going east. Go under I-69 until the road tees at road 50W. Turn left (north) on 50W and take it to Feather Valley Road.

Turn right (east) on Feather Valley Road and follow it until you see the sign for the entrance to Trine SRA. Turn right and follow the winding road until you see the Wild Turkey Shelter.

The main meeting will occur on Saturday, April 11 at the Potawatomi Inn. As usual, you don't have to attend any of the events on Friday if your schedule only allows you to be present at the Saturday meeting. See page 11 for a copy of this year's meeting agenda. HOW members will be welcomed by June Julien from the Steuben County Tourism Bureau, and she will talk about the great fishing available in the "Northern Indiana Lakes Country" of Steuben County.

We will also have four different seminar speakers at the conference, featuring the following presentations:

- **National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association**

Terri Trowbridge from the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association (NMLRA) will present our first seminar. She is the Director of Publications for the NMLRA and she is responsible for all association publications including the monthly magazine, Muzzle Blasts, and The Longhunter Society Muzzleloading Big Game Record Book.



Terri will give us some insight on exactly what the NMLRA is all about, and she will tell us about the two NMLRA National Shoots held each year in June and September at their home range in Friendship, Indiana. They also hold a National Youth Shoot where the focus is on safety, education, and fun; and a Western National Shoot at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix, AZ in March (among other things!).



- **Indiana DNR Canine Unit**

Officer Levi Knach from the DNR Division of Law Enforcement's Canine Unit will be on-hand with his four-legged partner, Kenobi. Officer Knach will explain the duties of Indiana Conservation Officers and how they utilize their canine co-workers. He will also show a short video of the K9 program.

After the video, Officer Knach will talk about some of the cases he and Kenobi have worked on and finish with a demonstration to show Kenobi's "alert mode". Officer Knach and Kenobi are show in the photo at right.

- **Birds of Prey Presentation**

Volunteers from Fort Wayne's Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehab (SHRR) group will bring some of their live birds of prey for a special demonstration at the HOW meeting. SHRR focuses on the rescue, treatment, flight conditioning and release of rehabilitated birds. They also host educational programs for young people, families and other members of the community, teaching the important relationship between raptors and humans, and efforts to support habitat and species preservation.



The SHRR bird handlers will present a variety of native Indiana raptors for us to see, up close and personal. They usually bring a kestrel, a screech owl, a barred owl, a great horned owl, a red-tailed hawk and maybe even a bald eagle. These majestic birds are impressive to see!

The goal of SHRR is to rescue and rehabilitate birds of prey, but not every bird is releasable. Those with serious injuries that hamper flight or hunting ability are often used for educational purposes. They are a great teaching tool! (Raptor photos courtesy of Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehab).

- **Champion Turkey Caller Carl Drake**

Hunter's Specialties and Realtree Pro Staff member Carl Drake will be our final speaker of the day. Carl is a lifelong outdoorsman, hunter and conservationist. He is a champion turkey caller and is a 3-time Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana State Owl Calling Champ.

Carl plans to talk about the "language of love" in the spring woods. He will discuss everything from locating turkeys to closing the distance to that big old tom. He will also talk about each call that a turkey makes, what it means, and how to imitate it with various calls – including mouth calls, box calls and friction calls.

According to Carl, "I am going to make this fun for all!" We might even persuade him to demonstrate some of his award-winning owl calls.



Awards-In-Craft

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

The Annual How Raffle



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

Shooting and hunting fans will be excited to learn that we have multiple firearms for this year's raffle: a stunning Henry American Beauty lever-action .22 caliber rifle, two Marlin rifles and a Mossberg 5.56mm MVP Varmint rifle. We also have a great camp stove, fishing rods, reels, trolling equipment, fishing lures and other fishing gear, rainwear, knives, books, instructional DVDs, optics, turkey calls, electronic dog training gear, boots, lights, hunting gear and accessories, shooting supplies, premium sunglasses and much more. Additional items are coming in every day, too, so start saving your money for tickets. You must be present to win, so don't miss it!

Explore Pokagon SP

There will also be opportunities to explore Pokagon State Park throughout the entire conference weekend, where HOW members and spouses can do some boating, hiking, fishing, bird watching, nature photography or simply spend quality time outdoors. The park's Nature Center may also be of interest to family members.

On Saturday during the meeting, some spouses may want to participate in the "Big Bird Nest Search" which will start at Pokagon's Spring Shelter at 10:30am. Participants will spend an hour and a half hiking trails and searching for some of the local birds of prey that will be setting up housekeeping in the park's woods. At 2:00pm, spouses may also participate in the "Vernal Pond Patrol". This includes a nice walk down into the Nature Preserve and over much of Trail 6. Hikers will search the temporary spring ponds along the way for songs of frogs, salamanders, and other forms of life. Again, the hike will last for about an hour and a half. Meet at the main entrance to the Inn.



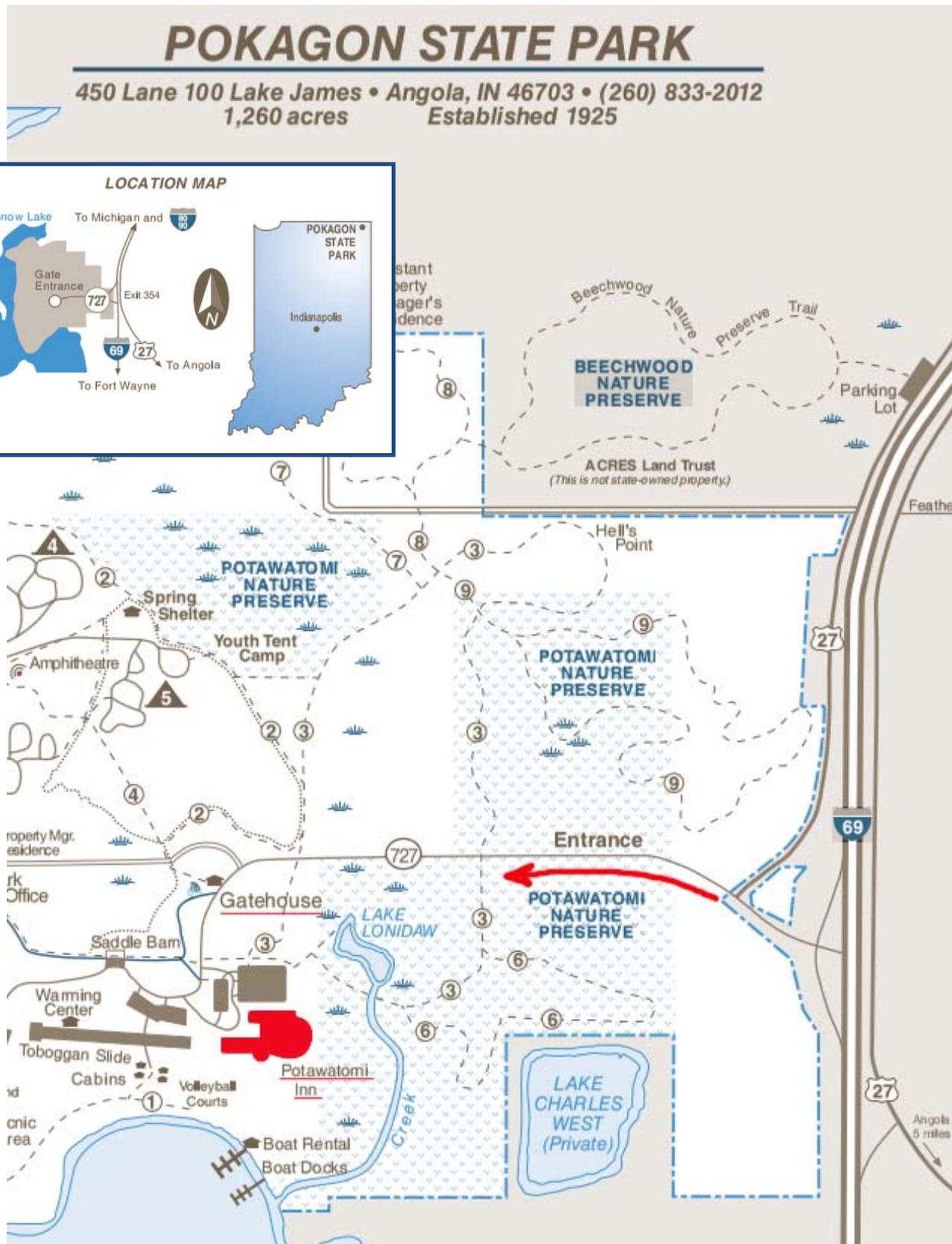
HOW Fishing Outing

Unfortunately, the HOW Fishing Outing which was scheduled for Sunday, April 12 has been cancelled. At press time for this newsletter (end of March), the area lakes were still ice-covered. This has been another cold winter and the spring has been equally cold.



Although the local fishing guides believe the ice will be gone by the end of the first week of April, that would only give the lakes one week of open water before we arrived. Given the late departure of the ice, these local fishermen feel they would have a very tough time putting us on the fish. We will just have to try again next year!

Pokagon State Park Maps for the HOW Conference



HOOSIER OUTDOOR WRITERS

Annual Meeting on April 11, 2015
Pokagon State Park
Lake James Ballroom
Angola, IN

TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE

8:00-9:00am

Registration, continental breakfast.

8:30-9:00am

HOW Board of Directors meeting.

9:00-9:05am

Opening remarks by President Bob Sawtelle and briefing on the day's schedule.

9:05-9:15am

June Julien from Steuben County Tourism will welcome HOW members to Pokagon State Park and will talk about the great fishing nearby and the outdoor recreation prospects available in "Lakes Country".

9:15-10:00am

Seminar #1: "Muzzle Loading Rifles". Terri Trowbridge from the NMLRA will discuss her work and tell us about the two NMLRA National Shoots held each year at their home range in Friendship, IN.

10:00-10:10am

Break.

10:10-11:10am

Seminar #2: "DNR Canine Unit". Officers from the DNR Law Enforcement's Canine Unit will be on-hand with their four-legged partners. They will give an interesting demonstration with their dogs and explain some of the things they do to help solve crimes in the Indiana Outdoors.

11:10-11:30am

Business meeting, Slate of new officers, presentation of HOW/Bass Pro Shops "Pass It On" Award.

11:30-12:30pm

Buffet lunch and social time for members.

12:30-1:30pm

Seminar #3: "Birds of Prey". Volunteers from Fort Wayne's Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehab (SHRR) group will bring some of their live birds of prey for a special demonstration. They will also discuss their raptor rescue and rehab efforts.

1:30-2:00pm

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

2:00-2:30pm

Break. Raffle tickets go on sale!

2:30-3:15pm

Seminar #4: "Turkey Calling". Champion turkey caller Carl Drake from Westfield, IN will talk about the turkey's "language of love" in the spring woods. He will also discuss each call that a turkey makes, what it means, and how to imitate it with various calls – including mouth calls, box calls and friction calls.

3:15-3:30pm

Break. Last chance to buy raffle tickets!

3:30pm

Annual HOW Outdoor Writer's Raffle.

4:30pm

Meeting adjourns.

6:00pm

Dinner on your own for those staying until Sunday.

2015 HOW Conference

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers would like to thank the following companies and organizations:



Awards-in-Craft Sponsor



Friday Evening BBQ Sponsor



Conference Lunch Sponsor

Sponsors of the 2015 HOW Annual Conference

HOW Raffle Donors - 2015

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

Alabama Mtn. Lakes Tourist Assoc.
Bass Assassin Lures
Bass Pro Shops
Battenfeld Technologies
Big Game International
Birchwood Casey
Boat U.S. Angler
Buck Knives
Camp Chef
Carbon Express
Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau
Church Tackle Co.
Clam Corporation
Cocoons Eyewear
Costa Sunglasses
Cotton Carrier
Creason Wooden Pens
Ducks Unlimited
Environ-METAL, Inc.
Eppinger Manufacturing
E/T Lights
Eagle Claw
Flying Fisherman
Frabill
Frogg Toggs
Gerber Legendary Blades
Gun Protect
Hawke Sport Optics
Henry Repeating Arms
HHA Sports
Hodgdon Powder Company
Hooker Deer Drag Company
HT Enterprises, Inc.
Hunter's Specialties
InterMedia Outdoors
Irish Setter Boots
JB Lures
Koppers Fishing/Tackle
Kruger Optical

LaCrosse Footwear
Leupold
Lurecraft Industries
Mathews
Montauk Mike's Lures
Mossy Oak
National Muzzle Loading Rifle Assoc.
Nosler, Inc.
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.
Off Shore Tackle Co
Okuma Fishing Tackle
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Pure Fishing
Quaker Boy Game Calls
Reef Runner Lures
Remington Outdoor Company
RIO Products
Savage Arms
Shimano American Corporation
Shurhold Industries, Inc.
Snag Proof Manufacturing
SportDOG
Streamlight
Sturm, Ruger & Co.
Tales End Tackle
ThermaCELL
Tink's
Trophy Angler's Tackle
TTI-Blakemore Fishing
Vexilar, Inc.
WaveSpin Reels
White Flyer Targets
Xtreme Hardcore Gear
Yakima Bait Co.

DNR News



Division of Fish & Wildlife

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

For immediate release: March 3, 2015

DNR Stocked Nearly 32 Million Fish in 2014

When it comes to stocking fish in Indiana waters, 2014 was a banner year.

The DNR and organizations with a DNR permit stocked 31.9 million fish in 70 counties in 2014. In a typical year, stocking numbers are between 22 million and 24 million fish.

The increase was primarily due to a near-record number of walleye eggs collected at Brookville Lake by DNR biologists for hatchery production. Those eggs also had a higher-than-normal survival rate. As a result, biologists stocked approximately 10 million more walleye fry than normal.

Other species stocked throughout Indiana were bluegill, brown trout, crappie, channel catfish, chinook salmon, coho salmon, grass carp, hybrid striped bass, hybrid sunfish, largemouth bass, muskie, pike, rainbow trout, redear sunfish, saugeye, steelhead, striped bass and yellow perch.

Stocking fish size ranged from fry to channel catfish and muskellunge more than a foot long.

Stockings supplement natural reproduction or help establish a species in an area where it cannot reproduce on its own.

“Fish stockings not only add value to the fishery but also give a boost to the local economy by bringing additional anglers to the area,” said Brian Schoenung, DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife fisheries chief.

District fisheries biologists evaluate fish populations to determine the best sites for stocking. For questions about stocking at a specific location, contact your district fisheries biologist. A map of districts and their biologists is at www.fishing.IN.gov/3590.htm.

It is illegal to stock public waters without a DNR permit.

The fish are produced at the state’s seven hatcheries and one trout rearing station. Information on hatcheries is at www.fishing.IN.gov/3077.htm.

Fish were raised and stocked with the help of anglers through fishing license sales and the Sport Fish Restoration Fund, which collects excise tax paid by the manufacturer on qualifying fishing equipment.

To view all DNR news releases, please see www.dnr.IN.gov.

Media contact:

Michelle Cain, DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife, (317) 234-8240, mcain@dnr.IN.gov.

DNR News

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

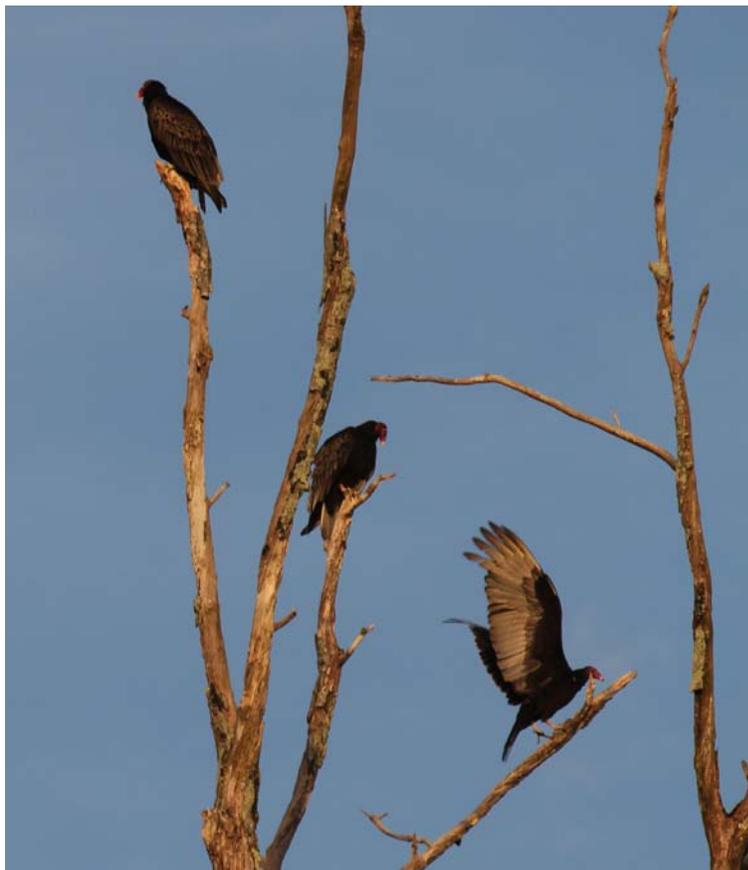
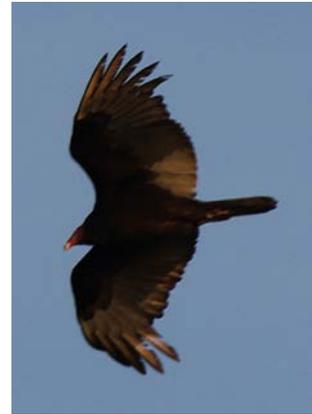
For immediate release: March 2, 2015

Outdoor Indiana Magazine Features Nature's Garbage Men

Outdoor Indiana magazine's March-April issue features an article on vultures.

The birds serve as nature's garbage men, removing dead animals from our roads and lands. They may not be the most attractive of our winged wildlife, but they are some of the most important.

The issue also includes a removable eight-page booklet on Patoka Lake, one of the largest yet most unknown recreational gems in Indiana, providing 8,800 of tree-lined water surrounded by 26,000 acres of forest. The booklet continues the magazine's series in which



one state park or reservoir property will be portrayed through 2016, the 100th anniversary of Indiana state parks.

Outdoor Indiana is available now at Barnes & Noble stores in Indiana for \$4. Subscriptions are \$15 for one year (six issues, a 27 percent savings) and \$28 for two years (12 issues, a 42 percent savings).

Subscribe at www.innsgifts.com or call 317-233-3046. To read article excerpts, go to OutdoorIndiana.org.

Media contact:

Marty Benson, DNR managing editor of Outdoor Indiana magazine, phone: 317-233-3853.

These turkey vulture images were captured at Patoka Lake in southern Indiana. Photos by Tom Berg.

Our Visit to North Carolina

by Rich Creason

My wife Susie and I have just returned from a week-long trip to the western corner of North Carolina. We attended the annual conference of the South East Outdoor Press Association (SEOPA). At these events, we eat from early morning until late night. We had three buffet meals every day plus appetizers before dinner at hospitality rooms and snacks at late night gatherings. I attended numerous seminars taught by experts about various aspects of outdoor writing, and Susie went on spouse trips with the other ladies to local attractions, shopping, lake tours, etc.

One day of the conference is called "Breakout Day". This is where the Corporate Sponsors set up booths displaying their latest products. I get to see the latest in fishing gear from St. Croix, Shimano, TTI, and more. Tenzing packs, Plano boxes, Frabill nets, BPI muzzleloaders, and Sure-Call duck calls were being demonstrated. Hi Mountain Seasonings had a booth where I got to sample assorted flavors of summer sausage, jerky, and other meats. Contests were held to see who could identify different fish, birds, and various pistols. The breakout area was in a campground at the base of Fontana Lake Dam, the largest dam east of the Mississippi.

On another day, Tourism Bureaus, hunting and fishing resorts, and other commercial settings from North and South Carolina, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Virginia and West Virginia, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, and maybe some other states passed out literature and praised the benefits of visiting their area. This is my favorite day. I plan all of our travels from the information gathered at this event.

The final day of the conference is Shooting Day. In the morning, Smith & Wesson instructors invite any of the ladies who have never shot a weapon (or had little experience) to come to the range for training. Pre-registration was required. Anyone who was planning on participating in this event was required to attend a shooting safety instruction class the previous day. Unfortunately, the ladies event was shortened by about an hour and a half because one of the vans carrying guns, targets, etc. got stuck in the middle of the range. After some heavy equipment was brought in to pull the van out, firing could begin. Susie was able to shoot four different pistols. Winchester supplied the ammunition free of charge. Last year, her favorite was a S&W .380. This year she picked the M&P 9mm Compact. I don't know if that will be on her Christmas list or not.

After a great BBQ lunch, the men got to shoot. There was every kind of weapon imaginable to try, from Daisy BB guns to muzzleloaders which sounded like cannons, to a wide variety of shotguns and rifles. Everyone had a great time and came back with shooting tales and muddy boots.

Every day had one or two silent auctions with products from autographed books, to handcrafted wood products, to homemade canned goods. Friday evening was the big live auction with many tables full of outdoor gear, guns, trips and more donated by the corporate sponsors.

But attending this event was not the only fun we had on this trip. On the way down, after leaving I-75 south of Knoxville, we got on road 129 which would take us to Fontana Lake Village where the event was being held. This is about a 30-mile stretch of twisting, hilly, mountain road. I guess the first 20 miles must be the dragon, because the last section is called the "Tail of the Dragon". This 11 mile monster has 318 curves. It's extremely popular with bikers and sports car drivers. It took us 90 minutes to drive this final 30 miles of our trip with almost no traffic.

On the way home, we decided to go east about 40 miles out of our way to travel through the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. While bear and elk are common in the park, we only saw several large flocks of turkey. Susie had me stop about every half mile so she could get out and take pictures of the small river which runs beside the road. Unfortunately, our camera didn't capture the sounds of the rapids. This was a gorgeous drive with many overlooks with views of the "smoke" on the mountains, fog in the valleys, and waterfalls in several places.

We brought home several outdoor books for me, an autographed kid's book for Benjamin, our grandson, assorted Christmas gifts for the rest of the family, and a duffel bag full of literature to sort through to plan future trips. As soon as it stops raining outside, I will be able to empty the truck of everything we acquired on our visit to North Carolina.

Editor's note: Rich Creason has been an Active HOW Member since 1998. He travels extensively with his wife Susie and writes about his adventures and the interesting outdoors destinations that he visits.

HOW Member News



Gary Redmon lifts the invading coyote that he shot on his property. Photo courtesy of Gary Redmon.

Gary Redmon Protects Dog From Coyotes

HOW member Gary Redmon worked on his coyote hunting skills recently. As most HOW members know, coyotes now inhabit all of Indiana's counties and their populations are growing. Conflicts between humans and coyotes are growing, also.

"I would like to say the harvest of this coyote was the result of my hunting or trapping skills," said Redmon, "but this coyote was taken mainly for pet protection. My neighbor lost several prized 4-H chickens recently, and local media outlets reported several missing pets along with attacks from coyotes."

"We have a 6-month old Havanese puppy that will not go outside at night to do his business without our escort due to coyote activity. He would make a nice dinner for a coyote."

"Coyotes are numerous in rural Putnam County. They have become a nuisance and have sparked concerns locally and statewide. I have heard their howls and cries at night along with several sightings. I have seen quite a few tracks in the snow, too. My game cameras revealed that the coyotes

were coming in close to the house at different times of the night."

"One night, with the moonlight reflecting in the snow, I watched the property from the comfort of my home. I had turned the lights off and was looking outside for movement in the dark shadows. As soon as I spotted movement, I quickly exited out the front door and quietly make my way to the back corner of my house. I had my Remington 1100 12-gauge shotgun ready. I got on my knees and with the assistance of a scope, I easily identified it as a coyote. I dropped him with a deer slug at sixty-two yards."

Landowners may take coyotes year-round on the land they own. They may also provide written permission for others to take coyotes on their land at any time.

Schoonveld Family Member Spots Wolf In South Dakota

HOW Board member Mike Schoonveld is a dedicated coyote trapper, but he has never encountered a gray wolf (*Canis Lupus*). Gray wolves, also called timber wolves, are much larger than their more numerous cousins the coyote (*Canis Latrans*).

"My brother-in-law recently spotted a wolf near his South Dakota home," reported Schoonveld. "It was probably a wolf from Minnesota. Here is a photo of one of its paw prints in the snow (see photo at right)!"

Trapper Schoonveld had an appropriate response: "He needs a bear trap!"



A paw-print as big as your hand is pretty scary. Full-grown wolves are dangerous! Photo courtesy of Mike Schoonveld.

Mike Berg Angles For Shad in South Carolina

HOW member Mike Berg from Cedar Lake caught his first fish of 2015 in early March, but it was not just another bass or bluegill. This fish was an American Shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) which he caught from the Cooper River in South Carolina. Berg loves targeting different species of fish, and one of his goals in life is to catch every species of freshwater fish in North America. His lifetime list is getting pretty long!



Mike Berg displays one of the smaller American Shad he caught this spring on the Cooper River. Photo courtesy of Mike Berg.

“I made a trip to Moncks Corner, SC recently, and I knew it was about time for the annual American Shad run,” Berg said. “Shad are a lot of fun to catch, so I took the opportunity to schedule a fishing trip while I was in shad country.”

American Shad are anadromous fish, which means they live in the ocean but swim up freshwater rivers to spawn. They can get quite large (for shad), with most individual fish weighing 3-5 pounds and the largest weighing 8 pounds or more.

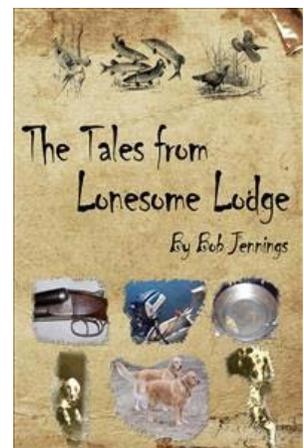
“I’ve caught American Shad once before in Pennsylvania, but they were not as big as these fish,” reported Berg. “We caught a total of 17 or 18 shad before quitting, with most of the fish weighing between 4 and 8 pounds. My biggest was right around 8 pounds. The females were larger than the males, with deeper bodies that were full of eggs. The fishing guide told me that most local people eat the shad eggs, but some people also eat the fish.”

“We used chartreuse-colored twister-tail jigs to catch the shad, and kept the baits near the bottom. We were fishing near the dam, and when the schools of shad reach the dam they just mill around in a big circle. By watching the other boats you can see where the fish are circling. Anglers in one boat will start hooking up with fish, and then the next boat in a clockwise direction will hook-up. Soon the school would reach us and we’d hook-up! Shad fight hard and often jump clear of the water.”

Bob Jennings Publishes New Book

HOW member Bob Jennings has a new book out from Infinity Publishing, titled *The Tales from Lonesome Lodge*. It is available in hardcover and softcover versions. Here is a short description from the back cover:

“These tales take you back in time to a place called Lonesome Lodge on beautiful Lake Nisato. The staff at this lodge is attentive to your every need; the visitors that come and go will tickle your imagination with their adventures and grab your attention with the vehicles they arrive in. You’ll marvel at the hunting adventures when a visitor sparks one of the residents to reveal a secret he’d been hiding for almost a year, which brings to light some mythical times with bird dogs...”



Jennings said this new book is his best effort to date. Congratulations, Bob!



How Would You Trap A Vulture?

by Gary Redmon

For approximately two weeks in February I noticed a large dark vulture running around (not flying) in my area. Obviously injured, it couldn't fly and was hopping around in open fields in search of food and going back into the woods for cover.

My neighbor, a veterinarian, called Liz and Chris Hatton of Westfield, IN. They are state and federally-licensed avian rehabilitators and are founders of the group "For the Birds of Indiana." They came to locate and capture the bird, but it could not be found that day.

After a few days, the bird returned and started getting closer to my house and detached garage. I started throwing out pieces of meat which he gladly consumed. By this time he was walking better and I could get closer, but I found out the big bird could run faster than I could!

I contacted the district DNR office and was advised that due to the bird's condition, it would be best to let the Hatton's do what they could. I contacted the Hatton's who requested photos if possible. I got a couple good photos with a game camera to send them via email. They called upon reviewing and advised me that it was a juvenile black vulture which was rare for this far north. In fact, they had never seen one in all their work.

They asked if I could attempt to trap or capture it for them. I enjoy trapping, but I couldn't come up with a conventional way to trap a vulture. I knew it was hungry and would come to pieces of meat, though. The next day I saw the big bird about 500 yards out coming across the field and heading my way. I quickly moved my truck out of the garage and backed it about 50 yards down the driveway.



Chris Hatton (left) and Gary Redmon (right) examine the black vulture they rescued. Photos courtesy Gary Redmon.

Then I laid a trail of small pieces of meat leading into the center of my garage to multiple pieces scattered around. I got in my truck and waited. In a short amount of time it came and started eating the trail of meat – and to my surprise didn't hesitate to go inside the garage.



With my truck running, I rushed up to block the door and pushed the remote automatic door opener to close. With the black vulture trapped inside I got a little excited, and called the Hatton's to tell them the news. They were excited as well. Chris came down and got the big black bird and headed back to Westfield to get him checked out with a vet. The vet reported no broken bones and could not diagnose why it would not fly.

This was my first attempt to trap a vulture and hopefully my last. As a defensive move, vultures commonly regurgitate their last meal. I will say no more. I was truly glad that Chris accomplished the final capture inside my garage.

Afterwards, I contacted the DNR and they advised me that black vultures are coming further north in numbers and are mixing in with the common turkey vultures. What an adventure!

Editor's note: Gary Redmon has been an Active HOW Member since 1984. He enjoys hunting for a variety of animals, but deer hunting is his favorite. He is also learning about trapping and enjoys that in the fall/winter as well.

Mike Schoonveld Helps Benefit Local Pheasant Conservation

Mike Schoonveld, HOW past-president, Lake Michigan charterboat operator, captain of the Brother Nature and pheasant devotee, recently attended a Pheasants Forever banquet and made his usual donation.

“I’ve been donating a fishing trip on the Brother Nature at our local Pheasants Forever banquet since the chapter opened many years ago,” said Schoonveld. “It’s not unusual for the bidding on this fishing outing to be at or near the top of all the auction items offered.”

“At last night’s banquet (in early March) a new record was set! When the bidding war was over, \$1125.00 was raised. As per the Pheasants Forever model,” he continued, “more than 90 percent of that money will stay here to bolster our local pheasant habitat and projects.” Great job, Mike!



Mike Schoonveld poses with his auction sign. Photo courtesy of Mike Schoonveld.

Schoonveld Also Finds Ice-Cold Salmon

The word is out that Lake Michigan’s harbors are finally ice-free and the fish are biting. Well, ice-free is a relative term. See Mike Schoonveld’s report from his first salmon fishing trip of the season below.

“Together with a fishing friend, I headed out for the first outing of the season on March 16,” said Schoonveld. “The word was out that the fish were in. It was a Monday and there were still probably two dozen boats working the warmwater discharge near the Gary Light. The early season nimrods were out in force, too, and they were creating chaos by cutting off other boats and going against the trolling pattern.”



“We only caught a few salmon at the ‘zoo’, so I made a strategic move and headed for the Bailly power plant discharge just east of the Port of Indiana. Since we had launched at Portage, it was on our way back home. Only one other boat was there and they stayed clear of us. There were plenty of floating icebergs, however, from baseball-sized to sofa-sized chunks. Because of the ice it was tough to stay in the warm water, but when we’d hit it we’d get a bite or two each time.”



Icebergs drift away from shore on Lake Michigan with a south wind. Above photo by Tom Berg. Salmon photo by Mike Schoonveld.

“We ended up catching nine coho salmon, a brown trout and a firetiger Rapala. One of the cohos had a spare Rapala in its mouth when it came to the net!”



Doug Sikora (right) and tourney partner Mike Bledsoe after taking 2nd place on Illinois' Lake of Egypt. Photo courtesy of Crappie USA.

Doug Sikora on Another Crappie Tournament Winning Streak

New HOW member Doug Sikora loves fishing crappie tournaments, and his spring schedule has already been pretty exciting.

On the weekend of March 13-14, 2015 he and his tournament partner Michael Bledsoe fished a Crappie USA event at Lake of Egypt near Marion, Illinois. They did very well, taking second place in the Semi-Pro Division with a two-day weight total of 18.91 pounds.

Sikora was competing not only for cash and prizes, but also for a chance to advance to the prestigious Cabela's Crappie USA Classic. This year's classic will be held in October on Patoka Lake near Jasper, Indiana.

Then on Saturday, March 21, 2015 Sikora and tournament partner Bledsoe fished another Crappie USA event at Old Hickory Lake in Sumner County, Tennessee. They did very well again against a field of anglers from seven different states, taking fourth place in the Semi-Pro Division with a one-day weight total of 10.58 pounds. Their biggest crappie of that tournament weighed nearly two pounds!

Sikora's hectic tournament schedule will not allow him to attend the upcoming HOW conference at Pokagon State Park, and he is not happy about it. "Unfortunately, I'll be headed to the Kentucky Lake Super Regional that weekend, so I can't make the conference this year...and I'm totally bummed about it!"



Doug Sikora (left) poses with HOW Past-President John Maxwell during a fishing trip last fall. Photo by Tom Berg.

Membership Changes and New Contact Info

The following HOW members have updated phone numbers. Please make a note of them:

- Gene Clifford:** 219-242-3459 (cell)
- Marty Jaranowski:** 708-267-2893 (cell)
- Larry LaGrange:** 812-556-0045 (home)

If your email address, phone number or other contact info changes, please notify HOW Executive Director Tom Berg at thomas.berg@comcast.net or by mail at 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311.

Mike Berg is a Culinary Master When it Comes to Wild Game

HOW member Mike Berg loves to cook wild game. He is also not afraid to try anything – at least once! Will he eat possum pot pie? You bet! Pickled frog gizzards? Why not?



On March 21, 2015 the Lake County Fish & Game Protective Association (LCF&G) held their annual Wild Game Dinner. HOW members may remember visiting the LCF&G clubhouse in 2012 when the HOW conference was held in Lake County. Each year LCF&G’s Wild Game Dinner is sold out, and one of the reasons is the extensive wild game hors d’oeuvres offerings before the main meal. Mike Berg personally cooks and supplies a large percentage of the hors d’oeuvres each year, and this year was no exception.

“We just finished another great LCF&G Wild Game Dinner,” said an exhausted Berg. “I meant to take a photo of each of the dishes I made for the hors d’oeuvres table, but as usual I was stressed-out trying to get everything done and I forgot. Luckily, my brother Tom got a couple photos.”



“This year I made a total of 11 dishes:

Possum Pot Pie, BBQ Opossum, Sweet & Sour Raccoon, Raccoon & Sauerkraut, Muskrat Stroganoff, BBQ Deer Ribs, Deep-Fried Frog legs, Fried Alligator Gar cakes, Smoked King Salmon, Smoked Trout and Crockpot Venison with mushroom gravy. Everything tasted good, but I think my favorite this year was the Crockpot Venison with gravy. It was great!”

Here are two of the dishes made by Mike Berg this year: BBQ Opossum and Sweet & Sour Raccoon. Both were very tasty, and there were no leftovers! Photos by Tom Berg.

“I would like to say a big thank you to my brother Tom and my son Steve for providing most of the meat, and to my wife Julie for putting up with the giant mess and cleaning up afterwards with my daughter Nicole. Also, thanks to Taylor Austgen and Isaac Henning for helping de-bone all the meat.”

Mike is already thinking about possible dishes for next year’s game dinner. Rest assured, there will be some unusual items on the hors d’oeuvres tables!

Ray Dickerson Celebrates 25 Years of Publishing *The Gad-a-bout*

Long-time HOW member and HOW past-president Ray Dickerson recently celebrated an important milestone: his publication titled *The Gad-a-bout* has been in circulation for 25 years! That is quite an accomplishment!

When asked about how he started *The Gad-a-bout*, here is what Dickerson had to say:

“In 1989, our local newspaper owners wanted to stop publishing their paper and asked me if I would consider buying the newspaper. They wanted \$75,000 to sell me the name. That was it – just the name, and the permission to continue publishing it. I considered it, but I figured they wanted too much money for a hometown eight-page newspaper. As much as I would have liked publishing the weekly newspaper, my thoughts turned to publishing another outdoor publication which would be different than my first attempt in 1973.”

“So in April, 1990 I decided to publish *The Gad-a-bout* in the 11x17 vertical format. It was folded to a quarter-page finished product and was printed on a web offset press. I learned one thing from my first publication: keep it simple and keep the cost as low as possible.”

With 25 years as a publisher under his belt, Dickerson is philosophical. We asked him if he knew the paper would be a success at the beginning, and here was his response:

“Did I think *The Gad-a-bout* would be a success? I don’t actually think that you can expect a newspaper to be a success. I was once told that if your paper succeeds in being published for five years, you were a success. Maybe it is a success if you make it all the way to 25 years, but publishing anything is only a success if you publish it and keep publishing it.”

“My plan is to keep publishing *The Gad-a-bout* until I cannot do it any longer, because I enjoy publishing it,” he continued.



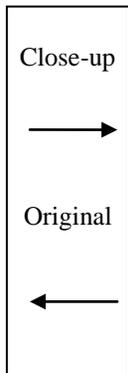
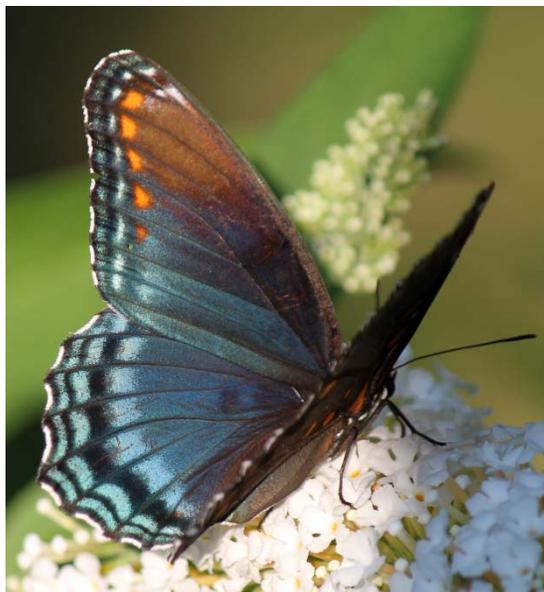
Here is the cover of the 25th anniversary issue of *The Gad-a-bout*. Image courtesy of publisher Ray Dickerson.

“I enjoy creating each issue from scratch, trying each time to make the next one more interesting.”

Unusual Nature Photos From The Hoosier Outdoors

Sponsored by Kruger Optical

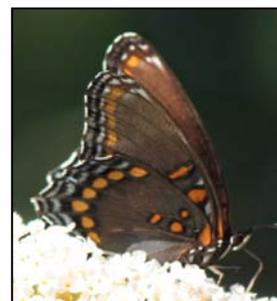
Red-Spotted Purple Butterfly



The “What is it?” photo from the most recent issue was a little tougher than last time, and seven (7) HOW members correctly identified it. Mike Berg, Troy McCormick, John Maxwell, Jarrett Manek, Vikki Trout, PJ Perea and Bill Keaton each had the right answer. When we drew a name at random for the **Flying Fisherman** sunglasses, Jarrett Manek was the winner. Congrats, Jarrett! We will send the sunglasses and retainer strap to you.

As you can see in the photo (at left and below), the mystery creature for this issue was a red-spotted purple butterfly (*Limenitis arthemis astyanax*). There are reddish-orange spots on the tops of the forewings, but the majority of the spots for which this butterfly is named are on the undersides of the wings. The most striking feature though, of course, is the bright iridescent blue coloration of this butterfly. They are quite beautiful and very hard to forget.

Red-spotted purples are common butterflies that inhabit forests, parks, trails and back yards that have plenty of trees. Adult individuals feed on rotting fruit, tree sap, dung and nectar from flowers like the white butterfly bush seen in the photo above. Their larvae (caterpillars) feed on the leaves of a variety of trees, including birch, poplar, willow, cottonwood, black oak and wild cherry. The iridescent blue coloration on the wings of the adults mimics the poisonous pipevine swallowtail butterfly, and this helps protect them from birds and other predators.



For this issue, our friends at Kruger Optical will be donating a great prize for the HOW member that guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be a pair of Kruger Optical Columbia Timberline binoculars. See below for more info.

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



Here’s another Nature Photo mystery. The photo shown at the left is a close-up of part of a common creature that lives right here in Indiana. Depending on where you live, you might see it in your back yard – but most of us will not. However, it is found throughout the state. Have you ever seen something like this before? Can you guess what it is?

This creature may not be too 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 sparrow, for example, go ahead and guess “Chipping Sparrow”.

Of course, it’s not a sparrow, but if you think you know what it is, send the answer via email to thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you’re right, you will be eligible for this issue’s prize.

As mentioned above, **Kruger Optical** will be donating a pair of Columbia Timberline 8x42 roof prism binoculars as a prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. These binoculars are waterproof and fog-proof and are known for their superb image brightness. They also come with a COOLNECK quick-release neck strap. 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.



Camp Chef's New Pellet Grill Receives Industry Award

Hyde Park, UT: Camp Chef, an industry leading manufacturer of outdoor cooking equipment, received special recognition during the recent awards ceremony at the Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Expo in Nashville, Tenn. The new SmokePro LUX Pellet Grill received the Vesta award for its innovation, design and technology.

“The Camp Chef team has put a lot of hard work into our new pellet grill so this is very rewarding,” said Kent Millecam, Vice President of Sales and Marketing. “The new user-friendly features really add value to those cooking on the back patio.”

The new SmokePro LUX Pellet Grill is the largest and most recent addition to the company's pellet grill line. Similar to the DLX model, the LUX is built with innovative digital control features that include both high and low smoke settings and a temperature range from 160°F up to 500°F. The digital temperature readout gives specific, accurate readings for both meat and smoke chamber temperatures. These features help eliminate the guesswork and provide users with accurate results.

When finished cooking, the cleaning is simple because the patented simple ash clean-out system allows users to empty ash with the pull of a lever. The large 18-pound capacity hopper also features a cleanout and feed mode, making it easy to change pellet flavors when desired. These features are also found in the DLX model.

The SmokePro LUX Pellet Grill has been designed with a 19.5 by 34 inch grilling area and an added warming shelf, giving users 875 square inches of total cooking surface area. A side shelf, large utility shelf and rolling caster wheels have been added for convenience. Additional accessories are also available.

The SmokePro LUX Pellet Grill has an expected availability of mid-April. MSRP: \$1042.

Now celebrating 25 years of quality outdoor cooking, Camp Chef is a leading innovator of outdoor cooking equipment including stoves, smokers and a full line of cast iron cookware. From backcountry to back patio, Camp Chef is The Way to Cook Outdoors. Visit www.CampChef.com for more information.



Media contact information:

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HOW Supporting Member News



Remington Model 783 Awarded Game & Fish/Sportsman Magazine Reader's Choice Award



Madison, NC: The Remington Outdoor Company (“ROC”) is proud to announce its Model 783 rifle was recently awarded a Reader’s Choice Award by Game & Fish/Sportsman Magazine for favorite centerfire rifle.

Game & Fish/Sportsman annually conducts a survey of their readers to find out what their hardcore hunters consider the best new gear. This year, nearly 3,000 qualified hunters cast their votes in the Reader’s Choice Awards and gave opinions about their experience with products such as rifles, ammo, trail cams, binoculars and eight other categories.

“Our readers are experienced hunters, spending on average 22 days in the field every year,” said Game & Fish/Sportsman Publisher Peter Gross. “They know what works and their category choice was the 783.” Voters often cited the user-adjustable trigger, accuracy, compact size and general reliability, he said. “That’s a ringing endorsement from an exceptional class of hardcore hunters,” said Gross who presented the Readers’ Choice Award trophy to John Fink, Remington Director of Product Management during the 2015 SHOT Show in Las Vegas, Nevada.

“We are honored that Game & Fish readers have chosen our Model 783 as their favorite centerfire rifle,” said Fink. “With the Model 783, custom-grade accuracy is now within reach of virtually every hunter. Using the expertise that has dominated bolt-action technology for more than 50 years, our engineering team started from scratch and combined their most advanced, accuracy-enhancing features to create an entirely new platform.”

As with all Remington bolt actions, expect a lifetime of rock-solid reliability from the next generation in the legendary bloodline – the Model 783. For more information on the award winning Model 783, please visit www.remington.com. HOW members may also contact Jessica Kallam, Remington Media Relations Manager, for more information or product images. Her email address is: Jessica.Kallam@remington.com.



HOW Supporting Member News

Caldwell Introduces Mag Charger Ammo Boxes

Columbia, MO: Battenfeld Technologies, a leader in the development of shooting, reloading, gunsmithing, and gun cleaning supplies, has announced a new product in their Caldwell brand lineup. It is the Mag Charger Ammo Box for AR-15 and AK-47 platforms.

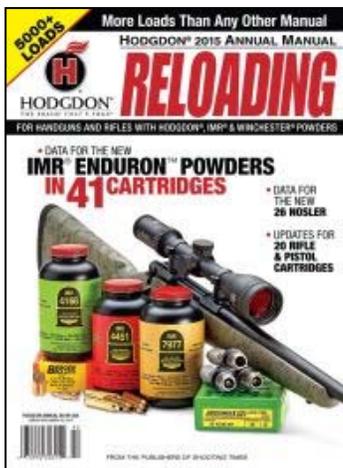
Caldwell's Mag Charger Ammo Box is optimized to drop ammo into the AR-15 and AK-47 Mag Chargers. The AR ammo box will hold 50 rounds of .223, 5.56 and .204. The AK ammo box will hold 50 rounds of 7.62x39. The durable polymer design is proven to be extremely tough and great for long term storage. The lid can easily be removed for use when loading. Available in 5-Pack.

For more information about Battenfeld Technologies products, HOW members may visit their website at www.BTIbrands.com or contact Kyle Smith, Marketing Manager. His phone number is 573-777-7614, and his email: ksmith@btibrands.com.



Hodgdon Powder Company Releases The 2015 Annual Manual ©

Shawnee, KS: Hodgdon Powder Company has released the 12th Hodgdon® Annual Manual©. This 8 ½" by 11" magazine-style publication is jam-packed with Hodgdon®, IMR® and Winchester® brand powder and reloading information. The manual also has the widest variety of pistol and rifle cartridge reloading data on the planet, with well over 5,000 loads.



Featured in the 2015 Annual are the new IMR® Enduron™ Technology powders that include IMR4166™, IMR4451™ and IMR7977™. Each powder has a built-in copper fouling reducer, are insensitive to temperature extremes, have small-sized grains for easy flow with an ideal loading density and have no ingredients considered harmful to the environment. There is extensive information for all three powders; data for forty-one rifle cartridges and articles from some of the top industry writers.

This is the complete source for reloading and it is available at newsstands and Hodgdon dealers everywhere. *Hodgdon, The Brand that's True.*

For more information visit www.Hodgdon.com or call 913-362-9455. HOW members may also contact Chris Hodgdon via email at: chris@hodgdon.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.arctic-ice.net
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.cyclopssolutions.com
Eagle Claw - www.eagleclaw.com
Environ-Metal, Inc. - www.hevishot.com
E/T Lights - www.triangelights.com
Federal Premium Ammunition - www.federalpremium.com
Field & Stream Outdoor Life Deer & Turkey Expos - www.deerinfo.com
Filson Corporation - www.filson.com
Flying Fisherman - www.flyingfisherman.com
FOXPRO - www.gofoxpro.com
Frabill - www.frabill.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
Indiana Office of Tourism Development - www.VisitIndiana.com
Indiana Outdoor News - www.IndianaOutdoorNews.net
InterMedia Outdoors - www.IMoutdoors.com
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.macks lure.com
Mathews - www.mathewsinc.com
Mercury Marine - www.mercurymarine.com
Mossy Oak - www.mossyoak.com
MyTopo - www.mytopo.com
National Muzzle Loading Rifle Assn - www.nmlra.org
National Shooting Sports Foundation - www.nssf.org
Nosler, Inc. - www.nosler.com
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
Remington Outdoor Company - www.remington.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
SportDOG - www.sportdog.com
St. Croix Rods - www.stcroixrods.com
Streamlight - www.streamlight.com
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - www.ruger.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.wrangleruggedwear.com
Xtreme Hardcore Gear - www.extremehardcoregear.com
Yakima Bait Co. - www.yakimabait.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:

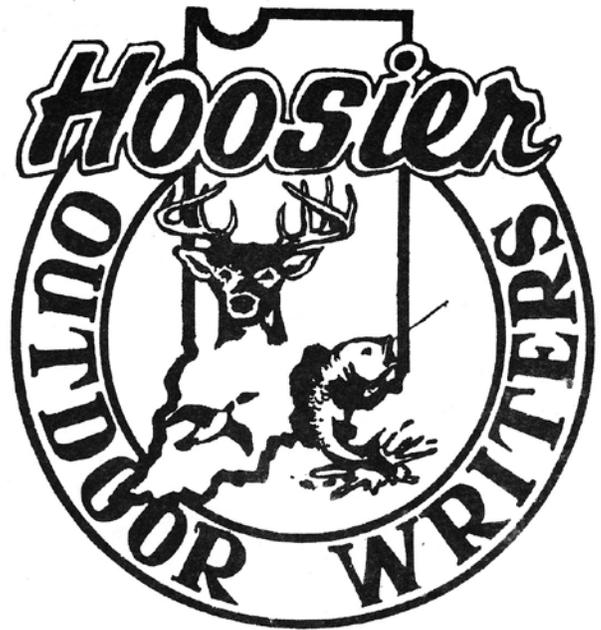
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor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

POMA 2015 Annual Conference:

March 18-21, 2015

(www.professionalooutdoormedia.org)

Springfield, MO

HOW 2015 Annual Conference:

April 10-12, 2015

(www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org)

Potawatomi Inn, Pokagon State Park

Angola, IN

AGLOW 2015 Cast & Blast:

May 11-14, 2015

(www.aglowinfo.org)

Labette County, KS

OWAA 2015 Annual Conference:

June 26-28, 2015

(www.aglowinfo.org)

Knoxville, TN

ICAST Show 2015:

July 14-17, 2015

(www.ICASTfishing.org)

Orlando, FL

AGLOW 2015 Annual Conference:

September 28-October 1, 2015

(www.aglowinfo.org)

Minneapolis, MN

SEOPA 2015 Annual Conference:

October 14-17, 2015

(www.seopa.org)

Eufaula, AL

SHOT Show 2016:

January 19-22, 2016

(<http://shotshow.org>)

Las Vegas, NV

HOW members may submit upcoming events, along with dates, locations and other details to the newsletter editor at: director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org for possible inclusion in future issues of The Blade.