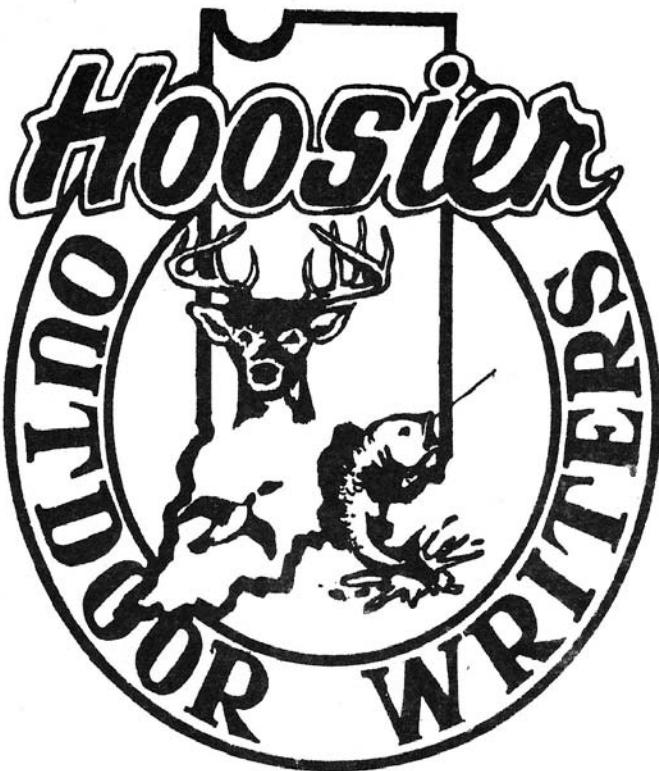


# The Blade

**September - October 2016**

**The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers**

**"Dare to be Different: One Rogue Red Leaf", 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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All submissions and correspondence in regards to the newsletter should be directed to: Tom Berg (e-mail: [director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org](mailto: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](http://www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org).

**On the cover:** One lonely red leaf stands out among the bright yellow leaves of a quaking aspen tree inside Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park. The photo was taken by Tom Berg in September.

# President's Message

by Ken McBroom

## *The Future For Outdoor Writers Hang in there*

As many of you know, the upcoming Archery Trade Association (ATA) show will take place in Indianapolis in January. You may also know that this year the ATA has decided to implement a new policy regarding press credentials for the show. There will now be a \$100 fee for ATA members and a \$150 fee for non-members. HOW Past-President Brent Wheat brought this to our attention and here is some of what he said (paraphrased):

The ATA's explanation for this fee was that they hope it will prevent salesmen from registering for free press credentials and then bothering exhibitors during the show. Apparently this has been a huge problem at the show.

This is very bad policy for two reasons. First, \$100 will not stop sales people from plying their trade at the show. Second, it will stop many members of the press from plying theirs.

My belief is that if there is a problem with vetting press members, the ATA should do a better job of checking credentials in the first place.

I feel that, as an outdoor writer organization, we should take a stand against this policy. I would propose that the organization send a letter to ATA showing the shortsightedness of their policy and how it will hurt the outdoor media business. Secondly, assuming they do not change their stance, we should discourage our members from covering or attending ATA until such a time as the policy is changed. This should be done as soon as possible to allow time for ATA to respond.

Actually, my biggest concern aside from ATA is that when other shows (i.e. SHOT) see this policy suddenly add a new revenue stream to the show business model, we will be forced to pay large fees for press access to any show.

Thank you for your consideration.

BW

Brent T. Wheat  
Publisher, WildIndiana Magazine

Here are my thoughts on the fees for entrance to the ATA show as well as other venues. I believe the "posers" will go ahead and pay the fee to get in, and the journalists won't. That will only hurt the ATA and those that promote them (the attending vendors). The "posers" still win.

It would be my guess that the problem lies with bloggers and webmasters who are legitimately reporting the vendors' products, but are also trying to get a product or sponsorship for their blog or website. The



(continued next page)

conundrum here is that the industry – all of them – love the free or low-cost publicity that bloggers, YouTubers and websites provide, but they don't want them mingling with the paying customers.

This is a bad deal for the legitimate bloggers, YouTube channels and websites that do a professional job and are truly attempting to carve a niche in the tough outdoor industry (or are already successful).

While I oppose the fee and the precedent it is sure to set for other venues, I do believe that ATA will consider waiving the fee if we sit with their decision-makers and discuss our member vetting process. We can also present them with a code of conduct which we would expect from any of our members that attend the show in the future. I also think it would be easy enough for them to utilize their own vetting process, but I am sure there are many unknown factors at play here and we may just need better communication to work through them.

I think as the writing and publishing industry makes its way to the internet, there are going to be many adjustments and issues along the way and these fees could just be one of them. Hopefully in the future, if the fees stay in place, it will become worthwhile to journalists to pay the fee and become just another way of vetting for the industry as a whole.

Right now, Google is working to weed-out people who just put keywords in their writing to obtain high search rankings. There are so many people doing that with worthless content, and the searchers were getting results that didn't address their needs or did so very poorly. Google is slowly weeding out those content creators and rewarding sites and blogs that actually feature good writing. They are even penalizing content for misspelled words.

My website started ranking better and better because I wasn't SEO savvy and I only had regular articles on my site. This is what people want to read. Each time Google created a new search algorithm, my site was awarded for its original content that wasn't "keyword stuffed" to manipulate the search results.

These algorithms are difficult to create and it takes time and Google keeps them top secret to keep people from manipulating them. As time goes on, many people will be forced to clean-up their content and their links. That is harder than just cutting and pasting articles from other sites to theirs. Once it becomes work, many will decide to give it up. That will leave the true outdoor writers who love to write, create and share the outdoors, standing in the end.

Thanks.

***Ken McBroom***

# The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

National Marine Manufacturers Assoc. (Supporting)  
Chicago, IL  
Sponsor: Tom Berg

## 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
Alan Garbers	2015

# **HOW Awards-In-Craft Winner**

**1st Place in the Writing Contest (Conservation category) – Under 1000 Words**

## **“Jasper-Pulaski FWA Offers Nation’s Wildlife Spectacle”**

by John Martino

As we hedge on the winter season many folks look for something to do. Many do not realize each fall one of our greatest wildlife spectacles happens right here in Indiana. It takes place at the Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area, located near the small town of Medaryville, about an hour's drive northwest of Kokomo.

As the air turns brisk and the landscape morphs into its stark winter contrast, thousands of sandhill cranes begin congregating on J-P's shallow marsh areas on their journey south. These Hoosier wetlands are one of the largest resting places in the United States for these huge clattering birds. Cranes are birds of open grasslands, meadows and wetlands and the sky literally swarms with them on their return to Hoosier soil.

“The birds are coming from Wisconsin, Minnesota and Canada,” said J-P property manager, Jim Bergens. “We have the perfect habitat and often times migrating cranes may spend several weeks here, which is why we build such huge numbers.”

“We read about it and one day decided to go,” said Kokomo's Mary Strand, who with her husband Paul, now make several trips annually. “It's such a short, beautiful drive and to see this take place in Indiana is amazing,” Paul added.

Standing nearly four feet tall on slender legs, these birds sport a red forehead, white cheeks and long dark pointed bill. Their wingspans push seven-feet, making them one of the largest bird species.

The first big push usually takes place in November. These early arrivals are harbingers of even higher numbers which usually peak by mid-November. During their fall migration, some 20,000 birds make Indiana their short-term home. The highest population estimate of 32,000 cranes occurred during the 1991 migratory season. It was only last week over 8,000 birds congregated at the fish and wildlife area as dozens of people snapped pictures from cell phones to high-end, tripod mounted cameras.

Gregarious in nature, these raucous birds can be seen soaring over Indiana skies in high flying V's or circles. Many times they can be heard before being seen. Cranes have unique unmistakable voices that can be

heard for miles when in flight. Some people describe it as a long rolling rattle.

The best place to view the sandhills is from the handicapped accessible observation towers, next to an area known as Goose Pasture. Although cranes can be seen throughout the day, the best time to witness their huge numbers is a few hours after dawn and at sunset.

As the sun breaks the horizon cranes leave the resting marsh in gigantic, noisy flocks to gather in Goose Pasture where they mingle and gab loudly before taking flight on their seven-foot wingspans for short jaunts to nearby feeding areas. About sunset they return on full bellies to socialize before flying off to roosting areas.

One of the bird's most striking and peculiar behaviors is the dance they perform. The humorous sequence begins with the bird bowing low then jumping into the air. The crane then settles back to the ground, sometimes throwing leaves and small twigs over its shoulder.

This routine is amusing, especially when they decide to perform this dance with their own shadow. Scientists believe this routine is a way to create new friendships or possibly reaffirming existing ones.

The Jasper-Pulaski FWA is located in a region once famous for the vast Kankakee Marsh. These wetlands consisted of more than one million acres of reeds, ponds and bogs. In the 19th and early 20th century the marsh was drained to make way for agriculture. Today, only several thousand acres remain.

Revenues used in land acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of Jasper-Pulaski, as well as other fish and wildlife areas, are derived from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. Operating capital is also provided from the federal Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson programs which generate funds from taxes levied on hunting and fishing equipment. This is just one example where Indiana hunters and anglers are proud to provide this property for the enjoyment of all people.

Information, including daily migration numbers, is updated weekly and can be found online or by contacting Jasper-Pulaski FWA at (219) 843-4841.

# DNR News

## Division of State Parks

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

**For immediate release:** October, 2016

## **Register now for Indiana Master Naturalist class at Fort Harrison State Park**

Learn more about nature and then share your knowledge with others by becoming an Indiana Master Naturalist through Fort Harrison State Park in 2017.

Fort Harrison has partnered with The Museum of 20th Century Warfare to host an Indiana Master Naturalist class starting in January and lasting through December.

Sessions are on the second Thursday of each month from 6 to 9 p.m. at the park's visitor center. Each session will focus on a different natural or cultural topic ranging from the history of Fort Harrison to Indiana birds, Indiana mammals and more.

The Indiana Master Naturalist Program (IMNP) is an educational/volunteer program developed by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Purdue University Extension. The mission of IMNP is to bring together natural resources specialists with adult learners to foster an understanding of Indiana's plants, water, soils and wildlife and to promote volunteer service in local communities.

The classes are open to anyone age 18 or older. Registration is limited to the first 30 students and the registration deadline is December 31, 2016.

The cost of the 2017 IMN class is \$80 per student. Participants must attend at least 10 of 12 sessions and complete 30 hours of volunteer service in order to become a certified Indiana Master Naturalist.

To register, and for more information, contact Interpretive Naturalist Jeff Cummings, Fort Harrison State Park, 317-591-0122 or email [jcummins@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:jcummins@dnr.IN.gov).

Fort Harrison State Park ([stateparks.IN.gov/2982.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/2982.htm)) is located at 5753 Glenn Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216.



## Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

We recently asked HOW members to submit photos and reports about interesting or unusual birds that they have seen during their outdoor adventures. The sightings do not have to take place in Indiana; anywhere in the world is fair game. All photos on this page were submitted by those reporting.

We hope this page will not only interest bird enthusiasts, but all HOW members who enjoy spending time in the great outdoors (i.e. everybody)!

### Report from Tom Berg:

"My wife Lori and I spent a week in northwest Wisconsin earlier this summer and saw lots of common loons (*Gavia immer*) on the lake where we were fishing," said Berg. "The pair of loons shown in the photo below



was busy feeding their young chick all afternoon while we watched. The mother (we assumed) always stayed with the youngster while dad disappeared beneath the waves to search for food, and it never took him long to re-appear with a small snack. From a distance we thought he was catching minnows, but after examining the photos on our computer later we realized he was catching crayfish! You might even be able to see a crayfish leg dangling in the photo. The junior loon didn't seem to care; he gobbled-up everything they brought him."



### Birding report from Garry Burch:

Garry Burch likes hunting and fishing, but he also likes taking photos of birds when he gets the chance. The photo at left shows one of his recent photos: a close-up of a great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*).

Great blue herons are the largest herons in North America, standing up to 54 inches tall and having a wingspan of up to 79 inches. They catch small fish with relative ease in the shallows of marshes, lakes, creeks – almost anywhere small fish can be found. They also prey on reptiles, amphibians, small mammals, large insects and even other birds.

Anyone who has tried to get close enough to a great blue heron to photograph it knows they are very shy and usually fly away before you can get that perfect photo. Nice shot, Garry!

### Did you take an interesting bird photo recently?

HOW members are encouraged to send their interesting bird photos to newsletter editor Tom Berg ([thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net)) for use in future editions of the "Interesting Bird Sightings" page. Your fellow HOW members would love to see your bird pictures.

## Fishing With Jim West

by Kenny Bayless

My son Seth and I were very fortunate to go on another adventure recently. Jim West asked us to come to Alaska to go fishing with him. Yes, Jim is the star of the popular Animal Planet TV show, *Wild West Alaska*. He is also a hunting guide, a bush pilot and a licensed river boat captain. He is a man of many talents!

Jim has a hunting and fishing lodge, called Klutina, 200 miles east of Anchorage, Alaska that is second to none! The lodge sets close to the Klutina River that flows into the Copper River about ¼ mile downstream. It's fed by glaciers, giving it a milky color. It's also a Class 4 whitewater river and the Coast Guard considers it not navigable. Jim has a jet boat and is a master at navigating such dangerous waters.

Jim's wife Kristy is a delightful lady! After she picked us up at the airport, we helped her shop for groceries. She drove us the 200 miles to the lodge, and when we arrived we were ready to hit the sack since we started our travels at 3am.

When you enter the lodge you take your shoes off or Kristy will get the broom after you. You better not set down at the head of the dinner table, either, because that's Jim's spot. You become one of the family because they live there in the summer months.

The living room has a 12-foot grizzly bear standing up with a mean look on his face from a small coon trap on one of his toes. A lynx is laying on a beam looking down at you and trophy king and silver salmon have their place over the picture windows. I thought I had died and gone to heaven.

The bedrooms are in the loft area. Lilly is their small Shiatsu dog that looks like a walking dust mop. She demands affection any time she looks at you with those big brown eyes.

Since we were in Alaska, I was interested in fishing for salmon. Anyone who catches all five species of salmon in one day achieves the Alaskan Challenge. It is extremely difficult to accomplish this feat! The five species of Alaskan salmon include king (chinook), silver (coho), red (sockeye), chum (dog) and pink (humpy) salmon. After the salmon leave saltwater they stop feeding – they are slowly dying. That is why it's such a rush for them to get upstream to lay their eggs. After spawning they quickly die.

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From left to right: Seth Bayless, Jim West and Kenny Bayless with their catch of Klutina River salmon. Photo courtesy of Kenny Bayless.

The king salmon fishing was closed when we arrived, so we fished for red salmon, grayling, and a trout species called dolly varden. You can keep one king per year and three reds per day. The kings have to be four years old to reproduce.

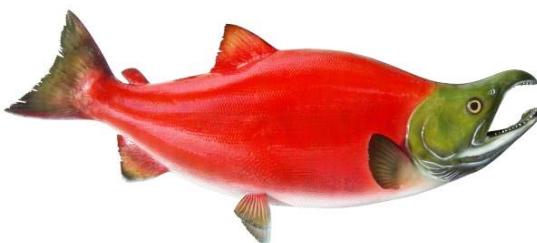
Dolly varden look like a grayling, but of course the grayling have a tell-tail fin on their back that comes up much higher. Grayling stay year round in freshwater. The dolly varden is a saltwater fish. They enter freshwater to spawn like salmon, but they don't die after spawning and they return to the ocean. A trophy-sized dolly varden may weigh two pounds and measure 16 inches long.

Everyone thinks the salmon are so thick in the streams during the spawn that you can walk across the creek on their backs. Not true; you earn any that you catch.

Salmon must be hooked in the mouth to be legally taken, not snagged or grab hooked. The grayling and dolly varden will actually bite on salmon eggs. We discovered that the most effective technique is to place salmon eggs in a mesh sack and attach it to a small #6 hook.

On the third day of our fishing trip something amazing happened. Three years ago a raft capsized on the Klutina River and not all of the folks made it out alive. They also lost all their fishing and hunting gear. As we were fishing in the general area, Aksel Falk (one of our fishing companions) thought he had hooked into the trophy salmon of his dreams. Jarad, our helper, came running to assist and after a few minutes of them both trying to land the giant salmon, it started to come their way to the shore. They both got squinty-eyed and looked like bird dogs on point. As the butt of a gun came up, Aksel realized he had hooked a 12-gauge shotgun. The hook had caught the gun's elastic shell holder which had two extra shells in it. As they came walking down the sandbar, Jim asked "Where in the world did you find a gun out here?" He was as surprised as we were!

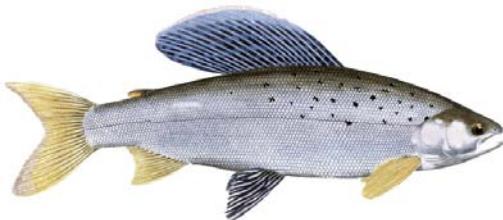
Jim and Kristy showed us a great time by catching fish, enjoying 5-star food and staying in a lodge anyone would love to share. For more info call the lodge at (907) 822-4570 or call Jim in person on his cell at (907) 244-1810.



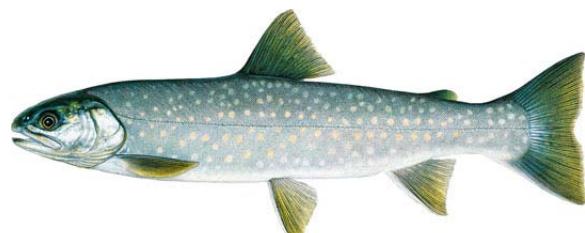
Sockeye (red) salmon



Chinook (king) salmon



Arctic grayling



Dolly varden trout



## Growing Big Bucks

by Bill Keaton

When I show my trail camera pictures to people, I am often asked what I am doing to have so many trophy bucks on my property. My responses may sound a little repetitive, but there is one overriding theme. BE PATIENT! Also, be willing to shoot does rather than taking just any buck.

My wife Rita and I own 135 acres in Jefferson County, IN. I have had one rule for more than 20 years. You cannot shoot a buck on my property unless it is bigger than one you have shot before. This rule

permits a first time hunter to shoot any buck, while encouraging all hunters to let the smaller bucks grow. If the rule is violated, the hunter gets shamed unmercifully for a year by everyone else, so there aren't many mistakes. I have also lobbied all of my adjoining property owners, actively and subtly with good success, not to shoot small bucks.

I have seen at least six different trophy bucks on my game cameras this year. In addition, there are six to eight small bucks coming along also. Last year I let three bucks walk by while I was hunting. I took a doe for meat, and I did not shoot a buck. This year I am seeing more big bucks (and small bucks) than ever before.



I get it that not everyone has their own property, and most cannot control what others do. However, most of us who hunt do so on the same area almost every year. Unless you are hunting only public land, most of us can have this conversation with anyone else who hunts where we do. If you want to consistently have trophy bucks, don't shoot the small bucks. "Take a doe, and let the smaller bucks grow."



## Getting Wacky With Bass

by Larry LaGrange

Like most of you bass fishermen, I've had success over the years with plastic worms. I'm old enough that I can still recall those slim packages of Creme three-hook red worms with the spinner in front. I caught fish on those in the late fifties and early sixties, too.



Then a trip to Kentucky Lake later in the sixties introduced me to the Texas-rigged worm. A retired military guy who fished the lake regularly said this was the way to go, and he gave my dad and me some packages of eight-inch pythons with the hook and sinker included. I thought it was a huge bait; much bigger than any worm I had ever fished. The sinker looked way too heavy. But after a lot of trial and error, my dad and I learned to fish this rig over the years and pretty much swore by it.

"If they're not hitting plastic worms," Dad would say, "they're not hitting." Pretty much true, to a degree. In mid-July this summer I caught maybe my third or fourth biggest bass ever, a 6.21 pound largemouth on the good ol' slip sinker Texas rig curly tail.

But I have a new worm that has grabbed my attention. The story first: My cousin Ron and I were fishing a private lake here in Southern Indiana that has a good population of bass. Fishing had been good that June morning, but as usual the bite died when the sun came out about ten o'clock and the day grew warmer. By 11:30am it was time to head in and call the outing a success.

"Let's hit that spot where we were getting them earlier," Ron said. "I have a new bait I'd like to try." We trolled over to the west bank near some sunken pallets and brush the owner had put in, and Ron rigged up a wacky worm.



I had tried the sideways thing a few times before, but with little success. I'd always go back to the standard rig after a few casts. The darn thing looked clumsy and weird in the water; it just didn't act right. And it didn't have a curly or paddle tail, which I had always used before. And it moves sideways, for gosh sakes. That's just not natural.

So cousin Ron rigged up his bait with the hook in the middle, tossed

it out, and did almost nothing with his rod. He retrieved it oh so slowly—one cast took forever. So I was observing his "practice fishing," as we call it sometimes when hopes are low and one just experiments with tackle. Then he set the hook on a nice 14-inch bass and brought it to the boat. All right—the thing does work. In about 45 minutes he caught seven bass from a spot we had given up on earlier.

"Hey, man," I said. "Give me one of those!" I've been a believer ever since.

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Ron used a black and red Strike King Shim e Stik, which is usually available in big box stores and tackle shops. The right hook is very important. A circle finesse wide-gap hook that has the right size to come through the middle of the worm and leave plenty of hook-up space is what you need. A bonus of the circle hook is that it's so easy to remove from fish. I've caught a bunch of fish on this bait and I don't believe any were the least bit hurt, even if they took it deep. The hook usually pops right out.

There are several stick baits like the Shim e, and I've tried a couple of others. It's just that there's something about this particular bait that, as its name suggests, does the shimmy just right.

Bass usually don't drop this bait quickly either, but of course you don't want to wait too long. The hookset doesn't have to be like yanking a log out, either. Just a nice smooth pull back does it. If you're using a weedless finesse hook, maybe a little more force is needed. The non-weedless has a super hook-up ratio and the weedless somewhat less, but sometimes the cover demands the hook guard. A 2/0 size is about right. I think 1/0 is too small.

I feel that if a bass is in the vicinity of this bait, he or she will most likely eat it. Just don't overwork this lure. Subtle twitches with your rod moving ten o'clock to eleven will be enough. Repeat: You can't work this lure slowly enough. Pretend it's a live nightcrawler and if pulled too hard it will come off.

An additional plus about the Shim e is that when you give it slack, it floats down and slightly backward. If a fish is following it and trying to make up his mind, getting smacked in the face with this lure usually seals the deal.

The best way to fish it is with no weight, but if you have to get it down deep, you must use some sort of weight. The slip sinker doesn't do the job with the Shim e. A clamped-on sinker just above the hook would be better, or you could try a nail weight. I haven't used one of these yet, but a Bassmaster article got my attention. A California spotted bass record, 10.48 pounds, was set in 2014 by an angler using a 5-inch Yamamoto Senko with a 3/32 ounce Lunker City nail weight on a size 2 Gamakatsu Wide gap weedless finesse hook. The weights can be inserted in the front or back to give the lure a different action.

Of course, nothing is guaranteed. I visited the same private lake recently and came away with one three-pounder for two hours of casting. I had one other bite, and that was all. It was August and the daytime heat and humidity were tough. The bass were probably feeding at night, when I prefer to sleep. So, come fall and cooler weather, the fishing should pick up again.

The Shim e or other Senko-type bait is another tool in your bass arsenal. Give the wacky deal a try. Just be patient and don't work it too fast. And believe a bass is looking at it, because one probably is.



The red and black Shim e Stik can be deadly on bass, but choosing the right hook is important. Photos courtesy of Larry LaGrange.

## Get A Grip On It!

by Mike Schoonveld

I always think it's odd when a person on my boat catches a fish and then goes all "icky" at the thought of actually touching it. Some of the time it's because of the size of the fish. Grabbing a crappie or bluegill flopping on the dock is one thing, but grasping a salmon or trout almost three feet long is something else.

Most of the time size doesn't matter. Many people are just plain reluctant to grip the fish they've just caught whether it's a panfish or the biggest fish in the lake.

Some of it is unfamiliarity. It's easy to figure out how best to hold a puppy or a cat. It's not so easy to grasp just how best to grasp a fish.

Granted, some fish have sharp pointy things on them such as teeth, spines on their fins or sharp stingers like catfish. These can hurt. Trout and salmon do have teeth, but no spines or stingers.

Mostly, I think, it's the fact that fish are generally wet and slimy. Is it a human trait to have a natural aversion to grasping things wet and slimy? I don't know. If so, it expresses itself (most often – but not always) in women and youths.



Big fish like this nice steelhead trout are much easier for anglers to hold with the Handy Hook. Photos on this page by Mike Schoonveld.



This chinook salmon has a date with the boat's deck. He should have used the Handy Hook!

These days, I don't even ask when a youngster or one of my female fishing guests catches a "photo-worthy" fish. Instead of trying to coach or coax the fisher person to correctly grip their fish while the photographers on board get their "happy-snappies," I just pull out my Fisherman's Handy Hook.

Basically, the Fisherman's Handy Hook is a tough plastic tool with an easy to grip handle on one side, a strong spike on the other and a plastic divider to ensure none of the "icky-gooey" stuff on the fish gets on the hands of the person holding the fish. Easy to use, all I have to do is slide the spike under the fish's gill flap and out through the fish's mouth. Now the happy angler has a fish with a handle on it and chances are I'm not going to have to clean the icky-slimy stuff off the floor of the boat after the fish has been dropped a few times.

**Editor's note:** HOW members may contact Julia Doom at the Fisherman's Handy Hook by email: [thefishermanshandyhook@gmail.com](mailto:thefishermanshandyhook@gmail.com). Or visit their website at [www.thefishermanshandyhook.com](http://www.thefishermanshandyhook.com).

## Behind the Scenes at MEC Reloading

by Rich Creason

As an outdoor travel writer, I am sometimes invited to visit areas not always open to the general public. In the past, my wife Susie and I have taken tours of many different outdoor product manufacturing facilities. Each place has their own regulations about which areas of the business can be viewed and whether photographs can be taken of the operation.

One of our first “behind the scenes” was the Pure Fishing factory in Okoboji, Iowa. They took our cameras and cellphones to insure we wouldn’t be taking any pictures of sensitive areas. The Hummingbird factory in Alabama gave us a view of the making of marine electronics such as fish finders. Another tour was through the Stormy Kromer operation in Michigan to see how they make their hats, vests, shirts, and other products. We have taken special trips like these in other states over the years. We enjoy seeing how outdoor products are made.

But, closer to home, a couple months ago, we were lucky enough to take one of these tours in Wisconsin at the MEC Reloader facility. Mayville Engineering Company was founded in 1945. At that time, their letterhead read “Tools, Dies, and Special Machinery”. Ten years later they began the shotshell reloaders market. They became the #1 shotshell reloader in the world, selling over two million machines. Another

15 years and they were 100% employee owned.

MEC continued to grow and in 2012, they had 16 facilities in five states. They had over two million square feet of manufacturing with 2,000 employee shareholders. A year later, they acquired APEX Clay Traps and started MEC Clay Target Machine product line.

Then came 2016, and our visit to their Mayville facility. We had met Shawn Wozniak, MEC Shooting Sports Manager at a writer’s conference several years ago. We kept in touch and he told me if we were ever in his

area, stop by for a tour. So we did. The first thing we noticed was a huge banner stretched across the front of

Several of the MEC reloaders on display at the Mayville facility in Wisconsin. Photo by Rich Creason.

the building which said, “Now Hiring”. How many employee owned companies, producing all American made products do you know which are advertising they are hiring? MEC is expanding that rapidly.

Shawn met us inside the front entrance and quickly showed us some of their products on display, and awards on the wall. We then followed him back to the factory floor. Bins along the aisle were filled with various parts of reloaders. He picked up one and told us it was the base for most of their machines.

(continued next page)

Other pieces along the way were additional parts of their reloaders. Shawn explained these were in the order in which they were assembled to make the finished product. Workers were building new machines as we watched.

He explained the various series of equipment they built in 10, 12, 16, 20, 28 gauge and .410 bore. We learned some of the features of their reloaders include a Flip Top Measure to avoid spillage of the shot and powder, a Spindex Crimp Starter which rotates to perfectly align with the old crimp, a Cam Crimp to assure correct crimping and closing pressures, an Adjustable Rammer Tube to properly seat the wad column and many more special components.

We moved on to the other part of their operation, the manufacturing of the clay target machines. They offer sizes from a recreational backyard model holding 135 targets which can be thrown 85 yards, to the heavy duty commercial size which holds over 400 clay targets. These are all metal, in-house inventory machines with the electrical wiring also done in the building. More information on these great products can be found at [www.mecshootingsports.com](http://www.mecshootingsports.com).

Now, you might ask, "Why would I want to reload my own shells when I can just go to the store and buy them?" I have three reasons which apply to me. They may or may not be important to you. First, if you figure the cost of a reloader, primer, wads, powder, and shot, (you already have the hulls which you have saved), then figure the price of buying a few boxes of shells, it won't take long to pay for your equipment.

Next, reloading is a fun hobby you can do by yourself, with your kids or grandkids, or even with some of your shooting buddies (maybe split the cost of the supplies). I will be using my MEC .410 machine to teach our 11 year old grandson how to reload his own shells.

Lastly, just like when I caught a fish with tackle I made myself, I really get a great feeling busting a clay target, or downing a bird or small mammal with a shell which I have reloaded myself.

I have a friend from church who shoots targets at the range usually once a week. I asked him if he reloaded his own ammunition and, if so, what brand reloader he used. He told me he had six different reloaders and they are all MEC. His next comment was, "MEC reloaders aren't the most expensive, but I think they're the best." I thought that said it all.



Several portable MEC clay target throwers with more in the background.  
Photo by Rich Creason.

# **Support the Right to Hunt and Fish Amendment on the November Ballot!**

October 4, 2016

**Calling all HOW members!** Please give publicity to and urge support of the question on the Indiana ballot: Should the Indiana Constitution be amended to guarantee the right to hunt and fish in Indiana?

On the November 2016 ballot, Indiana voters will be asked to approve NRA-supported Question 1, which is an amendment to the Indiana Constitution guaranteeing the right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife as an individual right. The ballot language for Question 1 was created by Senate Bill 57, which passed the House of Representatives with a 47 to 7 vote and the Senate with a 95 to 1 vote. SB 57 was signed by Governor Mike Pence (R) on March 21, 2016.

But this fight is not over yet! Preserve Indiana's rich outdoor heritage for future generations and make Indiana the 20th state to enact a Right to Hunt and Fish constitutional amendment by going to the polls on November 8 and voting "YES" on Question 1!

Question 1 will read:

*"Shall the Constitution of the State of Indiana be amended by adding a Section 39 to Article 1 to provide that the right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife shall be forever preserved for the public good, subject only to the laws prescribed by the General Assembly and rules prescribed by virtue of the authority of the General Assembly to:*

- (1) promote wildlife conservation and management: and*
- (2) preserve the future of hunting and fishing?"*

As such, Question 1 will ensure that laws regulating hunting and fishing are only to be genuine conservation efforts based upon sound science and not emotion. Currently, 19 states have Right to Hunt and Fish constitutional amendments.

Sportsmen have been under attack for many years by well-funded, national anti-hunting groups who demonstrate a clear disregard for both the cherished traditions of many Americans as well as responsible wildlife management in their drive to eliminate hunting and fishing. Hunting and fishing are integral parts of the culture and economy of Indiana, as it is one of the top ten deer-hunting states in the country and has more than 450 natural lakes and 21,000 miles of fishable streams, bringing in \$923 million annually in revenue and supporting 14,058 jobs.

This year alone, Indiana received \$11,993,245 of Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Funds thanks to excise taxes paid by Indiana sportsmen and women on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment. Pittman-Robertson funds fuel important conservation efforts such as the acquisition and improvement of wildlife habitat, wildlife species introduction, wildlife research, public access programs, and hunter education programs.

This article is courtesy of the NRA – Institute for Legislative Action.

**Be sure to vote "YES" on Question 1 this November.**

# HOW Member News

## Troy McCormick Stalks the Scottish Highlands for the Elusive Red Stag

HOW Board Member Troy McCormick loves hunting. He has taken many hunting trips to distant places over the years, but he wasn't planning to hunt on the trip to Europe he took in September with his wife. At least, hunting wasn't in the original plan...

"My wife Lori and I recently went to England to visit our youngest daughter, Jessica, who is studying this semester at Harlaxton College, an hour north of London," said McCormick. "We decided to go two weeks early and travel around Europe and see the sights. Before leaving home, Lori said, 'Why don't you hunt something while we are there?' Man, I love my wife! Within a week I had booked a hunt in Scotland for a coveted Red Stag. They are smaller than the red deer in New Zealand, and harder to hunt."

"My red deer stalking adventure took place at the Brae Roy Estate," he continued. "It is a 35,000-acre estate in northwest Scotland, in the heart of the highlands. The mountains were tall, the land virtually treeless, the water clean enough to drink from the many streams, and the red deer were herded up and hard to locate."

"Stalking to within 450-500 yards before being seen by deer was very difficult. We were spotted over and over again as we hiked the soggy bogs and heather-rich mountainsides. As we crested one final mountain, my stalking guide spotted a group of stags on the down side of the mountain. Slipping back and around the ridge top, we circled and came across two of the stags bedded on the slope. After crawling to a rock outcrop just 120 yards from the deer, I raised my video camera on a short tripod and spooked them both. They disappeared over the edge of the mountain and out of sight."

"As my guide and I lay there discussing my failed attempt to film the shot, a third, and larger, stag stepped out from behind some boulders and stood exactly where the other two had been. I whispered to the guide, 'I'm taking him,' and squeezed the trigger on the suppressor-tipped, .270 rifle I had rented for



Troy McCormick is all smiles as he poses with his trophy Scottish red stag. Photo courtesy of Troy McCormick.

(continued next page)

the hunt. The stag dropped in his tracks and lay there, much as my video camera laid beside me in the damp hillocks of marram grass.”

“We filmed the ‘hero shot’ beside the stag, and radioed for the Gillie, the man with the mountain pony. In the traditional manner of Scottish red stag stalking, we loaded my highland stag on the pony and I wearily, but happily, followed him down the mountain. The 8-point stag was later aged at 12 years old, and was reportedly in his prime for a highlands red deer.”



**ABOVE:** The stalking guide glasses for distant red deer with traditional optics and in customary Scottish hunting garb.

**LEFT:** McCormick and the Gillie carefully load the stag onto the pony for the trip down the mountain. Photos by/courtesy of Troy McCormick.

“This was truly a once-in-a-lifetime adventure hunt that I will never forget. Thank you, Lori!”

After the trip, we asked McCormick if he was able to bring any of the harvested meat home with him. “No, I didn’t get any of the meat,” he said. “The Estate keeps the meat, processes it, and sells it to local restaurants. You are basically helping the estate harvest deer and manage the herd.” Because of this, the hunt was much more affordable than a similar hunt for elk in the American west, he reported.

“I did get to eat a red deer steak and blood pudding in a restaurant near where I hunted, though. But I won’t be eating blood pudding again. Not on my list of favorites!”

“Getting the skull and antlers back to the U.S. is going to be another story,” continued McCormick. “Trying to ship the cape was going to be way too expensive. As it is, I must have a licensed taxidermist in Edinburgh clean and peroxide the skull, crate the skull and antlers and ship it to a customs broker in New York. I am still waiting for this to happen. Then, it has to pass inspection by U.S. Fish & Wildlife, U.S. Customs, and who knows what other agencies.”

“It should make another interesting story one day.”

## Mike Berg Uncovers Wisconsin Salamanders

HOW member Mike Berg visited northwestern Wisconsin earlier this fall, and although his main mission there is always fishing he did find time to do a few other things. One of those expeditions included searching for blue-spotted salamanders that live in the area. He has found them in the past, and he wanted to see if he could find them again.

Luck was with him one day as he was searching under rotting logs and under some old stacks of lumber. He flipped one board and got a real surprise! Four beautiful, good-sized salamanders lounging in the cool, damp dirt beneath the wood. He didn't disturb them – he just took a quick photo before covering them back up with the wood.

One of the interesting things about blue-spotted salamanders is they can release a noxious slime from glands at the base of their tail when threatened. If a predator like a raccoon ignores the stinky slime and grabs them by the tail anyway, the tail will fall off so they can get away. Surviving salamanders eventually grow a new tail. Photo by Mike Berg.



## Tom Berg & Family Hike Through Craters of the Moon

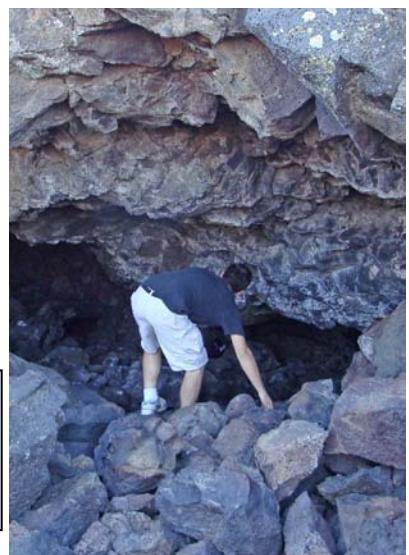
HOW Executive Director Tom Berg drove through the back country of Idaho in September as part of a driving vacation through the western United States. One of the places where he and his family stopped was at the Craters of the Moon National Monument (NM) near Arco, Idaho.

What an interesting place! The landscape of this national monument really does look like the surface of the moon. Jagged piles of black lava are everywhere, along with areas where flowing lava oozed out above ground and cooled, leaving fascinating shapes behind. The ground literally looks like a bulldozer just churned it up. Even though the volcanic activity happened 2,000 years ago, there is still very little that grows here.



There is plenty to see, though, including intriguing volcanic caves and lava tubes. There is even a small campground on the property, and campers often boast that they camped on the moon!

**Left:** A pathway leads through the lava fields.  
**Right:** Exploring the lava caves can be fun!



Craters of the Moon NM is a great place to view the unusual. Photos by Tom Berg.

## **Keaton Duo Pursues Snappers In Florida's Nearshore Waters**

HOW Legal Counsel Bill Keaton and his wife Rita made a trip to Florida in August to visit friends and do a little saltwater fishing. "Our friends Riley and Sally Lane went fishing with us, and the fishing was great," said Keaton. "It was a little too windy to go far out in the gulf so we fished an artificial reef about 6 miles from shore. We caught our limit of red snapper (20 fish total) plus quite a few other fish. We came in and made fresh ceviche and had snapper for dinner. It was wonderful! We made a recipe that the captain gave us."

"We had a goliath grouper on the line and a large barracuda, but we didn't boat them," he continued. "We also tried to hook a shark that was swimming around the boat but we didn't get it. A few days before we arrived the captain said they hooked a great white shark that was biting the back of their boat!"

"We even saw a very large stingray fly out of the water. It was a great trip and I would go again with Captain Travis Ormond any day of the week without hesitation. His charter service is called Pelagic Charters out of Stump Pass Marina near Englewood, Florida (941-374-1669)."



**TOP RIGHT:** A great catch of red snappers on ice, ready for the fish cleaning table. **ABOVE:** (left to right), Bill Keaton, Rita Keaton, Capt. Travis Ormond, Sally Lane and Riley Lane with a few snappers. All photos courtesy of Bill Keaton.

The photo and recipe on the next page shows the finished product that made a delicious dinner. Captain Travis provided the recipe, so check it out if you would like to try it.

## Captain Ormond's Easy Fish Dish

Servings: 2 filets per person.  
Preparation time: 10 minutes.  
Baking time: 20 minutes.  
Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

### Ingredients:

4 fish filets (for 2 people).  
1 stick of butter, melted.  
Fresh parsley.  
Fresh chopped chives.  
Paprika and black pepper.  
2 sleeves of Ritz garlic and butter flavor crackers (or Mediterranean or Italian flavor, your choice), crushed lightly by hand.



Melt the butter, then stir in cracker crumbs. Dump half of this mixture into an 8" x 8" (or similar size) baking dish and spread evenly. Nestle each fish filet on top of the cracker crumbs. Sprinkle any desired seasoning on top of fish (like black pepper). The Ritz crackers will probably provide plenty of salt. Cover all of the fish filets with the remaining cracker crumbs and slightly press the crumbs into the filets. Sprinkle the fresh parsley and/or chives on top. Also add a little paprika to the top for taste and appearance. You may also like to add lemon (or other spices and herbs) or cayenne pepper.

Place dish in hot oven and bake until top is lightly browned. Move the dish to the broiler very briefly to brown the top a little more and to get the desired crispness. Remove the dish and allow to cool for five minutes. Then devour!

Note: This recipe is easy to double and place in an 11" x 14" baking dish.



**TOP:** Dinner is ready and it's time to eat!

**LEFT:** Rita Keaton and Capt. Travis Ormond pose with one of the bonus fish caught during the trip. Rita holds a nice-sized little tunny (*Euthynnus alletteratus*) that took her bait down near the bottom. Little tunny are also called false albacore. All photos courtesy of Bill Keaton.

## Alan and Dianna Garbers Travel Old Route 66 - Again

by Alan Garbers

Nostalgia is a wonderful curse. My wife Dianna and I have lived in many wondrous places and been part of many amazing events. But in those moments, we often took them for granted. Years later we realized how lucky we had been to be part of it, and we wanted to experience those same cherished things again. Traveling historic Route 66 was one of them.



Recent events rekindled our nostalgic desire to see our old stomping grounds. One place stood out in both our minds; Delgadillo's Snow Cap diner in Seligman, AZ.

Seligman sits in the middle of what I believe is the longest remaining stretch of the original Route 66. When we lived in Arizona we had the good fortune of stopping at Delgadillo's. Juan Delgadillo still ran the diner and waited for unsuspecting customers. On our first visit sometime back in the late 1980s, Dianna and I had no idea what was in store for us.

As we stepped up to the order window we started scanning the menu board. Almost instantly, Juan was there pressuring us for our order. I stammered back that we just wanted to look.

Bam! From under the counter Juan slapped a "Look" brand candy bar on the counter. Flustered, I sputtered I needed a minute (or something along those lines). Bam, another oddly-named candy bar was slapped on the counter.

(continued next page)



Realizing I was being worked I started laughing and placed my order. As I was waiting, Juan asked if I would like a straw. I said yes, and instantly Juan offered a fist full of bent and dirty straws. He then asked if I would like a napkin. Again a fist-full of what appeared to be used mustard and ketchup-stained napkins were offered.

Finally, as I was trying to put my wallet away, Juan produced a squeeze-bottle of mustard. As he offered me the mustard, he squeezed the bottle! I could not move fast enough as a stream of yellow came shooting out of the spout and onto my wallet. It took a minute to realize that Juan got me again. The bottle was filled with yellow chalk line! Dianna and I have laughed about that day ever since.

A few years ago I found a copy of Arizona Highways that featured many of the icons of Arizona's Route 66. To our surprise (and delight) Delgadillo's Snow Cap diner was one of the places featured. We were sad to read that Juan had passed away, but happy that his son, John, had taken up the torch of "harassing" Arizona's travelers.

In September, 2016 we went back through Colorado and Arizona to relive old times, with Delgadillo's Snow Cap diner being one of them.

It looked the same, maybe a little better. Seligman has capitalized on the popularity of the Disney/Pixar movie, *Cars*, which took place on a fictionalized version of Route 66. Now, the town and the diner are a stopping place for foreign visitors. Busses stop regularly to allow them to experience Delgadillo's slapstick.

This time I was ready and wanting to relive it all. I was not disappointed. The folks in front of us received their soft drinks. "Would you like lids for your drinks?" John Delgadillo asked the unsuspecting customers. They answered with "yes". "Why?" John asked. "Are you messy?" "Sometimes", was the reply. "Oh... Would you like two lids, then???" The couple laughed. Not yet willing to let go of a fish on the line, from under the counter John produced a bundle of broom straws. "Would you like a straw?"



The next customers, a couple in their sixties, seemed a little gruff but John quickly had them laughing. As the man was putting his credit card away John produced the mustard bottle. Out shot the chalk line across the unsuspecting man's hands and wallet. His facial expression was priceless. It was all I could do not to laugh out loud, but it did bring a happy tear to my eye.

They say you can never go home. We know it's true, but in a few rare circumstances you can relive the past.

## The Adkins Clan Loves Fall Turkey Hunting

HOW member Kreig Adkins from Peru (below right) is an avid turkey hunter, and he knows fall is no time to put away the turkey gun. "On Tuesday, October 18, I was scouting a farm in Fayette County for the opening day of the fall turkey season," he said. "I was there for about an hour when I heard some cackling about 30 yards behind me in the woods. Then I heard a gobble, some clucking, then more gobbling. The turkeys were vocal for 45 minutes straight and the tom gobbled a total of 10 times in 30 minutes."

"A little later I had a different tom walk within 20 yards of me, and since I'm getting old I forgot I had a camera in my phone. Twenty minutes after he busted me and flew off, I remembered the camera."

"October 19: What a beautiful opening day! The weather was perfect, and at 10:00am I had a tom come to within 100 yards of me. Unfortunately he was more interested in the grasshoppers than the soft yelp I produced. At 2:00pm my brother Kelly said 'Don't move; I see a turkey.' I was shocked – not because he saw a turkey, but because the last time I looked at him he was asleep."



"Within a minute a big jake came out into the field and then the turkeys began to pour out of the woods. There were over 20 of them and there were that many more backed up in the woods, waiting their turn to enter the field. The turkeys began to walk away from us, feeding on bugs, so we both picked out a big bird, counted to three and let them have it. I harvested a hen weighing 14.6 pounds and Kelly got a 15.2 pounder."



"Kelly and I have been hunting for fall turkeys for years, and I have called in toms, hens and big groups of hens, from as far away as 300 yards. The hardest thing about fall hunting is keeping Kelly awake! Photos by and courtesy of Kreig Adkins.

## **Membership Changes and New Contact Info**

The following HOW members have updated contact information. Please make a note of it:

**PJ Perea:**      New email address: [pjperea@gmail.com](mailto:pjperea@gmail.com).

We also have a new HOW Supporting member. Please make a note of their contact information:

### **National Marine Manufacturers Association**

Maria Blevins, PR Manager. Mailing address: 231 S. LaSalle, Suite 2050, Chicago, IL 60604. Email: [mblevins@NMMA.org](mailto:mblevins@NMMA.org), phone: 312-946-6231, website: [www.NMMA.org](http://www.NMMA.org).

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

## **HOW Conference Reminder:**

### **Conference**

We are busily working on securing a location for the 2017 HOW conference, so keep a watchful eye on your email inbox. As soon as we have the location and dates we will let everyone know. As we have done for the past several years, the HOW conference will begin on a Friday and continue through Sunday with a variety of activities. The main meeting will take place on Saturday of that weekend, as usual. You may attend the Saturday meeting only, the entire weekend or any portion of the weekend. It's up to you!

## **Be Sure To Spend Some Time Outdoors This Fall**



Here is an interesting sight caught on film by Tom Berg while vacationing in Colorado during September. He was watching two mule deer grazing out in a pasture during the evening, when three wild turkeys suddenly popped their heads up from behind the tall grass next to the farmer's fence! Surprise! The turkeys quickly scattered, but the deer were in no hurry to leave. You never know just what you'll see in the great outdoors, so be sure to experience it!

## Unusual Nature Photos From The Hoosier Outdoors

Sponsored by HT Enterprises

### Red-Bellied Woodpeckers are the Enemy of Emerald Ash Borers



Close-up  
→  
Original  
←



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue must have been too easy, since twelve (12) HOW members correctly identified it. Ken McBroom, Don Cranfill, Michael Ellis, Mike Berg, John Maxwell, Rich Creason, Troy McCormick, Phil Seng, PJ Perea, Dave

Hoffman, Mike Schoonveld and Scott Weaver each had the right answer. When we drew a name at random for the **Pure Fishing** rod/reel combo, Rich Creason was the winner. Congrats, Rich! We'll get the fishing gear to you.

As you can see in the photo to the left, the mystery creature for this issue was a red-bellied woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*). Red-bellied woodpeckers are often mistaken for red-headed woodpeckers since the top of their head is red, but the two birds actually look quite different. The pale reddish coloration on the red-bellied woodpecker's stomach is usually difficult to see since their belly is almost always pressed against the trunk of a tree.

As expected, the red-bellied woodpecker spends a lot of time searching for food beneath the bark of trees. Insects like beetles, flies and ants make up much of their diet, but they also eat spiders, nuts, seeds and even small fruits (especially in fall and winter). During the summer they are major predators of the emerald ash borer beetle, reportedly capable of removing up to 85% of EAB larvae in infested ash trees. Hoosier foresters can really appreciate that!



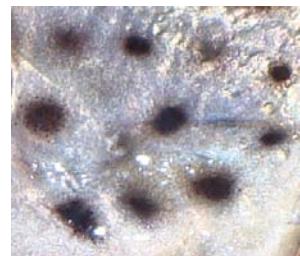
Since icefishing season is quickly approaching, our friends at **HT Enterprises** will again be donating a special icefishing prize package for the HOW member that guesses the right answer to this issue's “What Is It?” question. See below for more info.

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

Here's another Nature Photo mystery. The photo shown at right is a close-up of part of a creature that can be found right here in Indiana. It only lives in specific areas of the state, and you won't see it in your back yard. Have you ever seen this color pattern?

This creature may be difficult to identify, but we have to throw in a harder one every now and then. 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 species of beetle, for example, go ahead and guess “spotted cucumber beetle”. Of course, it's not a spotted cucumber beetle, but if you think you

know what it is, send the answer via email to [thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net). If you're right, you will be eligible for this issue's prize.



As mentioned above, **HT Enterprises** will be donating a special icefishing prize package (see photo at left) as a prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue's “What Is It?” nature question. The winner will receive: an **HT cloth rod locker**, two **Polar tip ups**, two **HT icefishing rod/reel combos**, a spool of **braided tip up line** and an **HT hand towel**. It's a great icefishing prize! If multiple people guess the right answer, we will draw one winner at random from the group of correct entries. Good luck and have fun guessing! All 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.

### Henry Repeating Arms Donates Rifles, Raises \$27,525 for Sick Indiana Boy

**Bayonne, NJ, October 17, 2016:** Henry Repeating Arms recently designed and donated 33 custom Henry Golden Boy rifles to raise funds for a 3-year-old boy named Brayden from Indiana who was born prematurely at 3 pounds, 2 ounces with a condition that left his intestines outside of his stomach. The surgery to remedy this condition led to infections and now most of Brayden's organs need to be replaced, excluding his heart and lungs.

Anthony Imperato, President of Henry Repeating Arms immediately offered the family assistance through the Guns for Great Causes branch of Henry Repeating Arms. The 33 special edition rifles were auctioned off and sold across the country to generate funds to help Brayden's family cover the cost of the anti-rejection drugs that are required for a successful transplant operation of this severity.



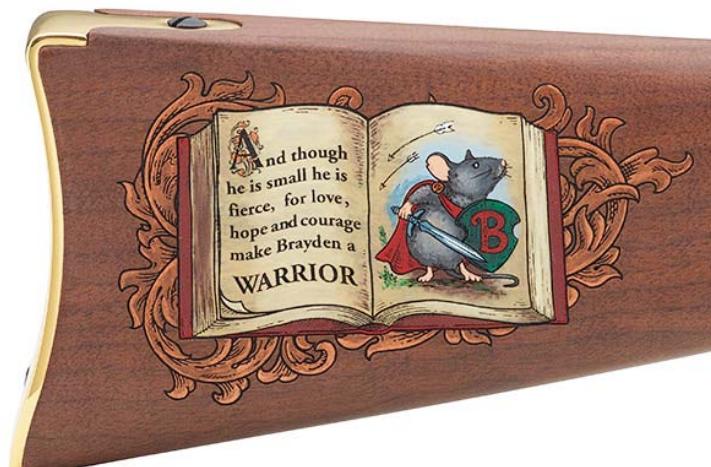
The first of the series, serial number "BRAYDEN01" was auctioned off on [www.gunbroker.com](http://www.gunbroker.com) and sold on October 16 for \$3,525. The remaining 32 rifles were sold directly through Henry Repeating Arms for \$750 each. These sold out in a matter of hours on the first day they were available after hundreds of requests came in to purchase one of the rifles. A total of \$27,525 was raised, which is all being given to Brayden's family to help with their medical expenses.

Henry Repeating Arms would like to thank all of the individuals and dealers who supported this cause by purchasing one or more of the rifles. Several rifles were purchased by people right here in Indiana, while others were sold to individuals in states as far away as California and Washington.

#### About Henry Repeating Arms

Henry Repeating Arms is one of the country's leading rifle manufacturers. Their legendary name dates back to 1860 when Benjamin Tyler Henry invented and patented the first practical repeating rifle during the Civil War. It became known as the "gun you could load on Sunday and shoot all week long." Henry rifles went on to play a significant role in the frontier days of the American West and soon became one of the most legendary, respected and sought after rifles in the history of firearms. President Lincoln's Henry hangs in The Smithsonian and has become a national treasure. The company's manufacturing facilities are in Bayonne, NJ and Rice Lake, WI.

For more information on the company and its products, HOW members should feel free to contact Henry President Anthony Imperato (phone: 201-858-4400 or email: [anthony@henryrepeating.com](mailto:anthony@henryrepeating.com)). Also, please visit their website at [www.henryrifles.com](http://www.henryrifles.com).



## HOW Supporting Member News



### Outdoor Sportsman Group Releases Products That Sportsmen Can Use

**Outdoor Sportsman Group** (OSG) is the largest media company solely devoted to bringing the best in content and entertainment to America's 80-million-plus outdoor sports enthusiasts. With premium brands such as Florida Sportsman, North American Whitetail, Petersen's Bowhunting, Gun Dog, In-Fisherman, Guns & Ammo and many more, OSG can always provide the outdoor information that its customers want. Some of the retail products include outdoors DVDs, books, hats, calendars, magazines, apparel and more.

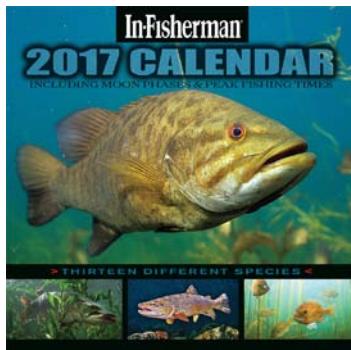
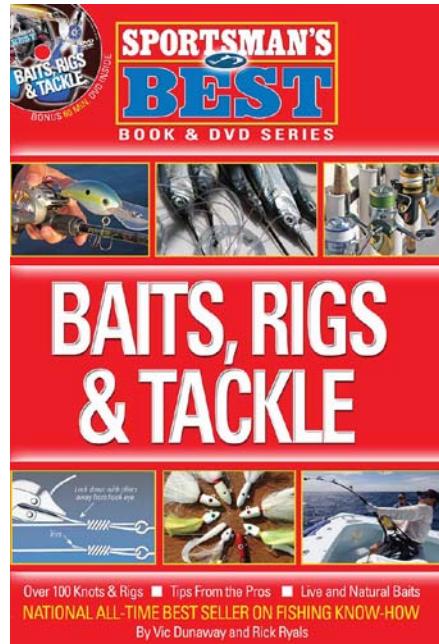
The all new *Baits, Rigs & Tackle* book by Vic Dunaway and Rick Ryals is better than ever. Captain Rick Ryals' updates and revisions provide the perfect complement to Vic Dunaway's classic book. Included with the book is a 60 minute DVD featuring Rick and other experts covering the basics of knot tying and rigging for all kinds of fishing. You will find all-new photos and info on the latest gear and tackle, too. Whether you're fishing for the first time or hundredth time, for bluegill or billfish, you'll find no better source for all things rigging. This softcover book is 288 pages and includes the DVD.

OSG has also released 13 new calendars for 2017, covering everything from fishing and flyfishing to hunting and shooting. Whatever your passion may be, these calendars allow you to enjoy it year-round. Fantastic pictures by some of the finest photographers in the world can grace your walls at home or in the office.

OSG's brands cover the spectrum of the outdoor experience; from big-game-adventure hunting to fishing for bass in backyard ponds to competing in the highest-caliber shooting sports events. Our audience has come to rely on the expertise of our editors and its presentation across every media platform for the best, most entertaining, useful and relevant content.

Outdoor Sportsman Group's media and entertainment brands include three leading multichannel networks: Outdoor Channel, Sportsman Channel and World Fishing Network. The Group also consists of a number of established integrated media assets, including 15 outdoor magazines and 19 top websites, including [BassFan.com](http://BassFan.com).

For more information on OSG's outdoor products, contact David Blackwell, National Sales Manager of Retail Merchandise (office: 772-219-7400, ext. 105; email: [david.blackwell@outdoorsg.com](mailto:david.blackwell@outdoorsg.com)). Also, be sure to check out OSG's website at [www.outdoorsg.com](http://www.outdoorsg.com).



## HOW Supporting Member News

### Ducks Unlimited Restores 1,200 Acres at Saginaw Bay

**SAGINAW, MI, October 5, 2016:** Wildlife and outdoors enthusiasts have 1,250 additional acres of managed wetlands near Saginaw Bay thanks to a major Ducks Unlimited project completed at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. The Maankiki Marsh project at the refuge south of Saginaw was completed this summer. It converted agricultural land back into wetlands for the first time in nearly a century.

"This project epitomizes the work Ducks Unlimited can accomplish with our partners, to help make nature whole again," said David Brakhage, conservation director at Ducks Unlimited's Great Lakes/Atlantic Region.

Ducks Unlimited, supporters and conservation partners gathered October 4 at the refuge to celebrate the project's completion. Event participants opened newly installed flood gates to reconnect nearly two square miles of drained land back to the adjacent Shiawassee River.



Ducks Unlimited supporters and volunteers open the flood gates to restore water to the wetland area which had been drained. Photo courtesy of DU.

Ducks Unlimited designed and oversaw construction which allows refuge managers to control water levels to benefit birds and fish. The Saginaw Bay area provides many ecological and social benefits, including habitat for other wetland-dependent fish and wildlife, flood control and abatement, water quality improvement and areas for outdoor recreation and education.

Ducks Unlimited Inc. is the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving North America's continually disappearing waterfowl habitats. Established in 1937, Ducks Unlimited has conserved more than 13.8 million acres thanks to contributions from more than a million supporters across the continent. Guided by science and dedicated to program efficiency, DU works toward the vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever.

**Media Contact** for Ducks Unlimited: Chris Sebastian, phone: 734-623-2017, email: [csebastian@ducks.org](mailto:csebastian@ducks.org). For more information on our work, please visit [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org).



# HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Alpen Optics - [www.alpenoutdoor.com](http://www.alpenoutdoor.com)  
Alps Brands - [www.alpsbrands.com](http://www.alpsbrands.com)  
Aquateko International - [www.aquateko.com](http://www.aquateko.com)  
Arctic Ice - [www.arctic-ice.net](http://www.arctic-ice.net)  
B'n'M Pole Company - [www.bnmpoles.com](http://www.bnmpoles.com)  
Backwoodsman Magazine - [www.backwoodsmanmag.com](http://www.backwoodsmanmag.com)  
Balsax Fishing Lines - [www.balsax.com](http://www.balsax.com)  
Bass Assassin Lures - [www.bassassassin.com](http://www.bassassassin.com)  
Battenfeld Technologies - [www.battenfeldtechnologies.com](http://www.battenfeldtechnologies.com)  
Battle Horse Knives - [www.battlehorseknives.com](http://www.battlehorseknives.com)  
Bill Lewis Lures - [www.Rat-L-Trap.com](http://www.Rat-L-Trap.com)  
Birchwood Casey - [www.birchwoodcasey.com](http://www.birchwoodcasey.com)  
Black River Tools - [www.blackrivertools.com](http://www.blackrivertools.com)  
BoatUS - [www.boatus.com](http://www.boatus.com)  
BOLT Locks - [www.boltlock.com](http://www.boltlock.com)  
Bradley Smoker - [www.bradleysmoker.com](http://www.bradleysmoker.com)  
Browning Ammunition - [www.browningammo.com](http://www.browningammo.com)  
Buck Knives - [www.buckknives.com](http://www.buckknives.com)  
Camp Chef - [www.campchef.com](http://www.campchef.com)  
Carbon Express - [www.carbonexpressarrows.com](http://www.carbonexpressarrows.com)  
Cast Away Bobber - [www.castawaybobber.net](http://www.castawaybobber.net)  
Church Tackle Company - [www.churchtackle.com](http://www.churchtackle.com)  
Cocoons Eyewear - [www.cocooneyewear.com](http://www.cocooneyewear.com)  
Cortland Line - [www.cortlandline.com](http://www.cortlandline.com)  
Costa Sunglasses - [www.costadelmar.com](http://www.costadelmar.com)  
Cotton Carrier - [www.cottoncarrier.com](http://www.cottoncarrier.com)  
Danner Boots - [www.danner.com](http://www.danner.com)  
Ducks Unlimited - [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org)  
Eagle Claw - [www.eagleclaw.com](http://www.eagleclaw.com)  
Environ-Metal, Inc. - [www.hevishot.com](http://www.hevishot.com)  
Eppinger Manufacturing - [www.eppinger.net](http://www.eppinger.net)  
Field & Stream Outdoor Life Deer & Turkey Expos - [www.deerinfo.com](http://www.deerinfo.com)  
Fish On Kids Books - [www.fishonkidsbooks.com](http://www.fishonkidsbooks.com)  
Fisherman's Handy Hook - [www.thefishermanshandyhook.com](http://www.thefishermanshandyhook.com)  
Fishing Physics - [www.fishingphysics.com](http://www.fishingphysics.com)  
Flying Fisherman - [www.flyingfisherman.com](http://www.flyingfisherman.com)  
Frabill - [www.frabill.com](http://www.frabill.com)  
Frogg Toggs - [www.froggtoggs.com](http://www.froggtoggs.com)  
G.Loomis - [www.gloomis.com](http://www.gloomis.com)  
Gamo USA - [www.gamousa.com](http://www.gamousa.com)  
Gary's Muskie Experience - [www.garysmuskieexp.com](http://www.garysmuskieexp.com)  
Gerber Legendary Blades - [www.gerbergear.com](http://www.gerbergear.com)  
Gun Protect - [www.mygunprotect.com](http://www.mygunprotect.com)  
Hart Productions - [www.hartproductions.com](http://www.hartproductions.com)  
Hawke Sport Optics - [www.hawkeoptics.com](http://www.hawkeoptics.com)  
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - [www.henryrepeating.com](http://www.henryrepeating.com)  
HHA Sports - [www.HHASports.com](http://www.HHASports.com)  
Hodgdon Powder Co. - [www.hodgdon.com](http://www.hodgdon.com)  
Hoosier Trapper Supply - [www.hoosiertrappersupply.com](http://www.hoosiertrappersupply.com)  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - [www.hmhco.com](http://www.hmhco.com)  
Howard Communications - [www.howardcommunications.com](http://www.howardcommunications.com)  
HT Enterprises - [www.icefish.com](http://www.icefish.com)  
Hunter's Specialties - [www.hunterspec.com](http://www.hunterspec.com)  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources - [www.dnr.IN.gov](http://www.dnr.IN.gov)  
Indianapolis Zoo - [www.indianapoliszoo.gov](http://www.indianapoliszoo.gov)  
Irish Setter Boots - [www.irishsetterboots.com](http://www.irishsetterboots.com)  
JackAll Lures - [www.jackall-lures.com](http://www.jackall-lures.com)  
Kruger Optical - [www.krugeroptical.com](http://www.krugeroptical.com)  
LaCrosse Footwear - [www.lacrossefootwear.com](http://www.lacrossefootwear.com)  
  
LensPen - [www.lenspen.com](http://www.lenspen.com)  
Leupold - [www.leupold.com](http://www.leupold.com)  
LiveTarget Lures - [www.livetargetlures.com](http://www.livetargetlures.com)  
Lodge Manufacturing - [www.lodgemfg.com](http://www.lodgemfg.com)  
Lurecraft Industries - [www.lurecraft.com](http://www.lurecraft.com)  
Mack's Lure - [www.macks lure.com](http://www.macks lure.com)  
Mathews - [www.mathewsinc.com](http://www.mathewsinc.com)  
Mossy Oak - [www.mossyoak.com](http://www.mossyoak.com)  
MyTopo - [www.mytopo.com](http://www.mytopo.com)  
National Marine Manufacturers Assn - [www.nmma.org](http://www.nmma.org)  
National Muzzle Loading Rifle Assn - [www.nmlra.org](http://www.nmlra.org)  
National Shooting Sports Foundation - [www.nssf.org](http://www.nssf.org)  
National Wild Turkey Federation - [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org)  
Nikon Sport Optics - [www.nikonsportoptics.com](http://www.nikonsportoptics.com)  
No No-See-Um - [www.nonoseum.com](http://www.nonoseum.com)  
Nosler, Inc. - [www.nosler.com](http://www.nosler.com)  
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - [www.mossberg.com](http://www.mossberg.com)  
Off Shore Tackle Co. - [www.offshoretackle.com](http://www.offshoretackle.com)  
Otis Technology - [www.otistec.com](http://www.otistec.com)  
Outdoor Guide Magazine - [www.outdoorguidemagazine.com](http://www.outdoorguidemagazine.com)  
Outdoor Sportsman Group - [www.outdoorsg.com](http://www.outdoorsg.com)  
Pheasants Forever - [www.pheasantsforever.org](http://www.pheasantsforever.org)  
Plano Molding Company - [www.planomolding.com](http://www.planomolding.com)  
PowerPro Lines - [www.powerpro.com](http://www.powerpro.com)  
Princeton University Press - [www.press.princeton.edu](http://www.press.princeton.edu)  
Pro-Cure, Inc. - [www.pro-cure.com](http://www.pro-cure.com)  
Prolong Super Lubricants - [www.prolong.com](http://www.prolong.com)  
Pure Fishing - [www.purefishing.com](http://www.purefishing.com)  
Quaker Boy, Inc. - [www.quakerboygamecalls.com](http://www.quakerboygamecalls.com)  
Reef Runner Lures - [www.reefrunner.com](http://www.reefrunner.com)  
Remington Arms Company - [www.remington.com](http://www.remington.com)  
Renfro Productions - [www.renfroproductions.com](http://www.renfroproductions.com)  
RIO Products - [www.rioproducts.com](http://www.rioproducts.com)  
Secret Lures - [www.secretlures.com](http://www.secretlures.com)  
Shimano American Corp. - [www.shimano.com](http://www.shimano.com)  
Shurhold Industries - [www.shurhold.com](http://www.shurhold.com)  
Sierra Bullets - [www.sierrabullets.com](http://www.sierrabullets.com)  
Sig Sauer - [www.sigsgauer.com](http://www.sigsgauer.com)  
Sole Scraper - [www.solescraper.com](http://www.solescraper.com)  
South Shore CVA - [www.southshorecva.com](http://www.southshorecva.com)  
SportDOG Brand - [www.sportdog.com](http://www.sportdog.com)  
St. Croix Rods - [www.stcroixrods.com](http://www.stcroixrods.com)  
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - [www.ruger.com](http://www.ruger.com)  
Super Brush LLC - [www.bore-tips.com](http://www.bore-tips.com)  
Tales End Tackle - [www.talesendtackle.com](http://www.talesendtackle.com)  
ThermaCELL - [www.thermacell.com](http://www.thermacell.com)  
Tink's - [www.tinks.com](http://www.tinks.com)  
Toyota Motor Sales - [www.toyotanewsroom.com](http://www.toyotanewsroom.com)  
Trophy Anglers' Tackle - [www.trophyanglerstackle.com](http://www.trophyanglerstackle.com)  
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - [www.ttiblakemore.com](http://www.ttiblakemore.com)  
Unfair Lures - [www.unfairlures.com](http://www.unfairlures.com)  
Vexilar, Inc. - [www.vexilar.com](http://www.vexilar.com)  
Vista Outdoor - [www.media.vistaoutdoor.com](http://www.media.vistaoutdoor.com)  
White Flyer Targets - [www.whiteflyer.com](http://www.whiteflyer.com)  
Widener's Reloading & Shooting Supply - [www.wideners.com](http://www.wideners.com)  
Winchester Ammunition - [www.winchester.com](http://www.winchester.com)  
Xtreme Hardcore Gear - [www.extremehardcoregear.com](http://www.extremehardcoregear.com)  
Yamaha Marine Group - [www.yamahaoutboards.com](http://www.yamahaoutboards.com)  
Yo-Zuri America, Inc. - [www.yo-zuri.com](http://www.yo-zuri.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:

<input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers	<input type="checkbox"/> Magazine	<input type="checkbox"/> Photography
<input type="checkbox"/> Books	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio	<input type="checkbox"/> Lectures
<input type="checkbox"/> Television	<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching	<input type="checkbox"/> Trade Journals
<input type="checkbox"/> Artist	<input type="checkbox"/> Public relations	<input type="checkbox"/> Government Info - Ed
<input type="checkbox"/> 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

**Indianapolis Fall Boat & RV Show:** September 23-25, 2016  
([www.renpropProductions.com](http://www.renpropProductions.com))  
Indianapolis, IN

**SEOPA 2016 Annual Conference:** October 5-8, 2016  
([www.seopa.org](http://www.seopa.org))  
Lakeland, FL

**Chicago Boat, RV & Strictly Sail Show:** January 11-15, 2017  
([www.nmma.org](http://www.nmma.org))  
Chicago, IL

**Cincinnati Travel, Sports & Boat Show:** January 13-15 & 18-22, 2017  
([www.hartproductions.com](http://www.hartproductions.com))  
Cincinnati, OH

**SHOT Show 2017:** January 17-20, 2017  
(<http://shotshow.org>)  
Las Vegas, NV

**Louisville Boat, RV & Sportshow:** January 25-29, 2017  
([www.nmma.org](http://www.nmma.org))  
Louisville, KY

**Chicagoland Fishing, Travel & Outdoor Expo:** January 25-29, 2017  
([www.nmma.org](http://www.nmma.org))  
Schaumburg, IL

**Louisville Deer & Turkey Expo:** January 27-29, 2017  
([www.deerinfo.com](http://www.deerinfo.com))  
Louisville, KY

**Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show:** February 17-26, 2017  
([www.renpropProductions.com](http://www.renpropProductions.com))  
Indianapolis, IN

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