

The Blade

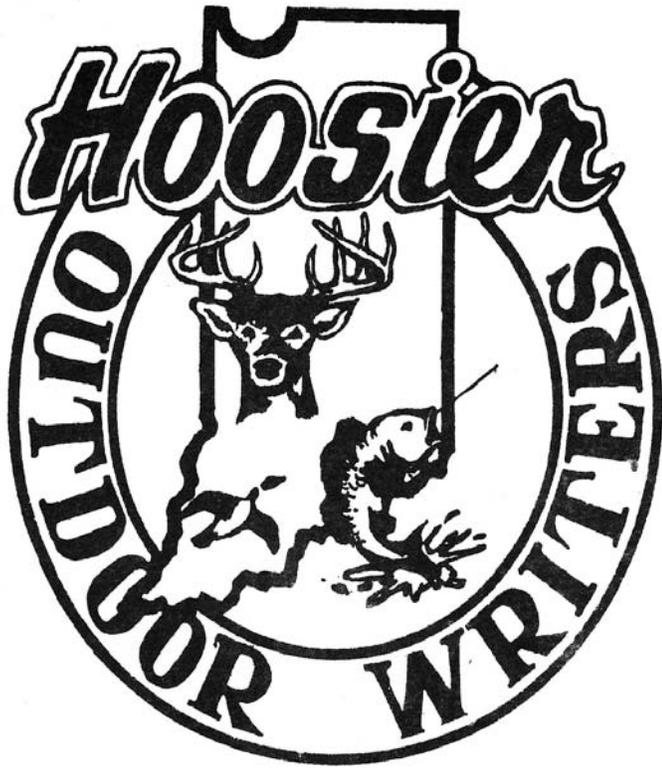
2019 Pre-Conference Issue

March - April 2019

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Bad Hair Day for Red-Breasted Merganser", 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.

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Executive Council

Board Chairman

Don Cranfill
3719 Pleasant Lake Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
themadpaddler@yahoo.com

President

Troy McCormick
3604 Sea Pine
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
troy@naturalconcepts.net

Vice President

Brent Wheat
2125 Witt Rd.
Lebanon, IN 46052
btwheat@wildindiana.com

Executive Director

Tom Berg
2142 Nondorf St.
Dyer, IN 46311
director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

Advisor

Bill Keaton
9494 West Base Rd.
Arlington, IN 46104
bill@bishophillguesthouse.com

Newsletter Editor

Tom Berg
2142 Nondorf St.
Dyer, IN 46311
director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

Board Members

Region 1 – Mike Schoonveld
2019
Region 2 – Phil Bloom
2020
Region 3 – Kenny Bayless
2019
Region 4 – Jack Spaulding
2020

At Large:

Dianna Garbers – 2019
Vikki Trout – 2019
Terri Trowbridge – 2019
Doug Allman – 2020
Jarrett Manek – 2020
Bryan Poynter – 2020

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 male red-breasted merganser enjoys a short rest stop in the calm waters of the Portage Marina just off of Burns waterway near Portage. This bird and many other mergansers were on their northern migration this spring when they stopped for a quick photo-op. Photo by Tom Berg.*

President's Message

by Troy McCormick

A Different View of the Same Outdoors



The view of my hunting area looked great from 400 feet above my treestand, and I could see a well-defined deer trail in the snow behind it on the ridge. It is post-deer hunting season and I was flying my drone above the woods where I hunt to get a better feel of the terrain and where I need to focus my scouting efforts this year.

Quadcopters and other sUAS (small Unmanned Aerial Systems) are more commonly referred to as drones and are becoming readily available to outdoorsmen and women. But what can they do, and what are we allowed to do with them?

I purchased my first drone five years ago and my most recent one less than a year ago. I fly a DJI Inspire 2 with a Zenmuse X5 camera on a 3-axis gimbal for filming and producing my outdoor TV show (bootprints.TV) and client videos. I also own a much smaller DJI Mavic Air that has foldable arms and fits within my backpack when I am traveling. It takes high-resolution photos and 4k video, but only weighs a little over a pound, while my larger drone tops out at 10 pounds when loaded with camera gear.

I made a special effort in the first paragraph to mention that I was flying over my hunting area *after* the hunting season because you are not legally allowed to scout for and locate game, in most states, while hunting. You also are not supposed to harass wildlife with drones, so getting too close is a bad idea. I received a call last year from a guy that had a pair of bald eagles nesting on his property, and he wanted to know if I would like to film them with my drone. I passed on the unique opportunity, explaining that I wouldn't want to bother the birds while nesting, but I did go and film them from the ground with my traditional video camera.

I am an FAA licensed drone pilot and can film commercially for profit, but anyone can fly a drone as a hobbyist. You'll spend \$500 to \$1,000 for a good hobby drone, but be sure to learn the basic rules before you fly. The answers to the most popular questions that I get when flying anywhere near the public are: 400' high, 4 miles away, 70mph, \$6,000, and no, you can't fly it. You can pretty much guess what the questions are.

I've seen wildlife studies using thermal cameras on drones to locate ground-nesting ducks, identify diseased trees, and find pythons in the Everglades. Yes, even snakes are a little warmer than their surroundings at times. My own use has been more to photograph property boundaries, provide aerial images for timber stand improvement programs, determine areas for food plots, and identify wildlife travel corridors and staging areas.

Drones often receive a bad reputation, but that is mostly because people don't know much about them. If you have any questions about drones just let me know and I'll be glad to talk with you about them.

The next time you're looking for a unique photo for a magazine or newspaper article you might look to the sky for your best view of the outdoors.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

HOW Extends a Warm Welcome to our Growing Ranks of Outdoor Communicators:

Jay Butler (Associate)
Fort Wayne, IN
Sponsor: Dean Farr

Joe Jansen (Associate)
Fishers, IN
Sponsor: John Martino

Perry Seitzinger (Associate)
Cloverdale, IN
Sponsor: Tom Berg

Cindy Stites (Associate)
Coatesville, IN
Sponsor: Don Cranfill

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
Ken McBroom	2016
Don Cranfill	2017



The Annual HOW Fun Shoot



The 2019 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 2019 HOW Conference will be held at Fair Oaks Farms north of Rensselaer, we will be visiting the Oakwood Gun Club south of Wheatfield for the HOW Fun Shoot. The address is 11388 IN49, Wheatfield, IN. It is 28 minutes away from Fair Oaks Farms.

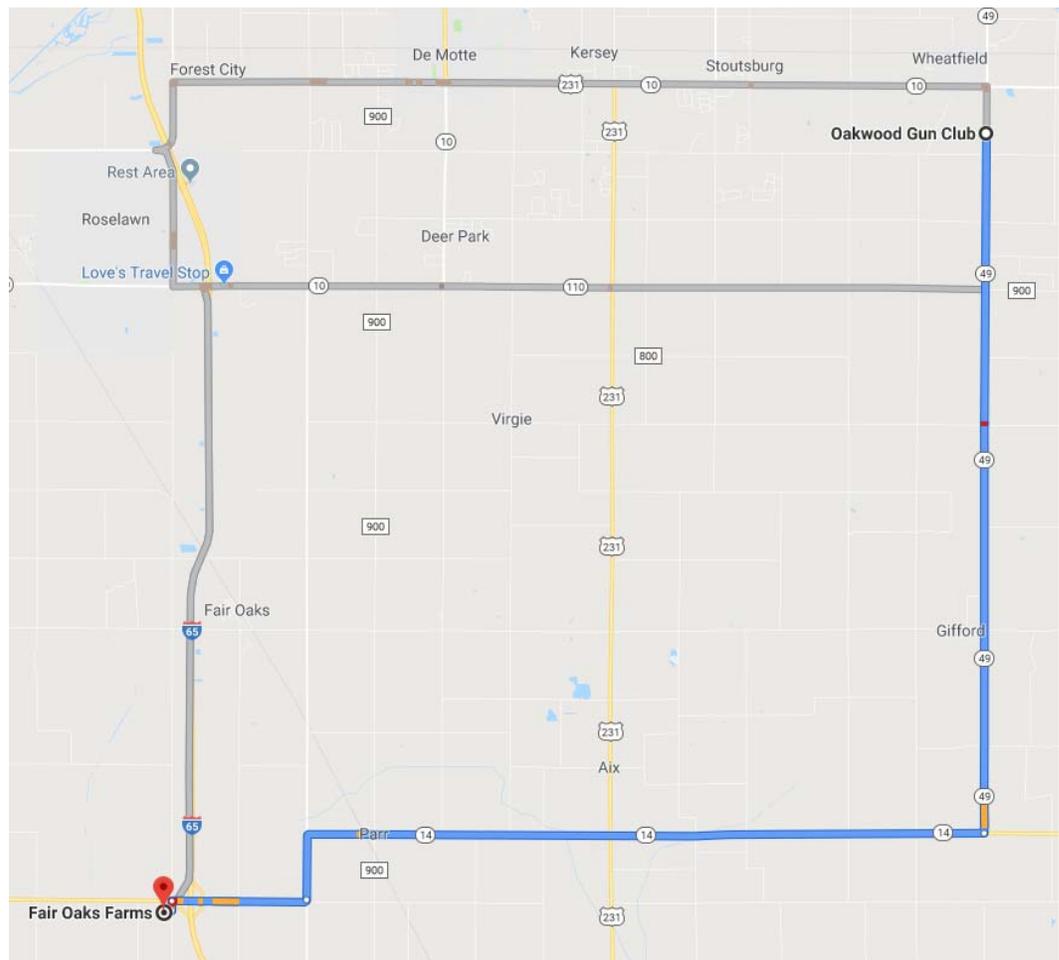
We will meet on Friday, April 12 at 1:30pm (central time) and start shooting as soon as everyone arrives. If you have trouble finding your way to the club, you may call the gun club and talk to Dave (219-956-4615). But it should be very easy to find (see the map below).

This year we will be shooting sporting clays (100 targets), and the course should be lots of fun. The cost for the shoot will be approximately \$30. You can pay to the club’s cashier when we arrive or after the shoot. You should bring your own shotgun, but ammunition will be complimentary. HOW Supporting Member **Winchester** will once again be providing the shotshells to all of the participating shooters free of charge.

We should have plenty of time to finish shooting and get to Fair Oaks Farms to get ready for our “Friday Evening Barbecue” at 6:00pm. Come on out and join the fun!

See the map at right for directions to the gun club, or type **Oakwood Gun Club** (or type the address) into Google Maps, your GPS or your smartphone.

See you at the gun club!



2019 HOW Conference Preview

HOW Members To Gather At Fair Oaks Farms!

The 50th meeting of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers will take place on the weekend of April 12-14, 2019 at the **Fair Oaks Farms** complex about ten miles northwest of Rensselaer, IN. The property is located right on I-65, so it will be easy to get to and easy to find. Have you been to a HOW conference lately? This is shaping-up to be another great conference, and since we haven't had a conference at this location you won't want to miss it.

Fair Oaks Farms and the Fairfield Inn & Suites will welcome HOW members and guests on Friday, April 12 and Saturday, April 13. The main HOW meeting takes place on Saturday and the doors open at 8:00am (central time).

The weekend conference activities will begin with the annual HOW Fun Shoot on Friday, April 12. All HOW members who enjoy the shooting sports should consider joining us this year! If you have never shot a clay target, this would be a great opportunity for you to learn. Our shooters are always willing to help newcomers discover and enjoy the sport. Fun Shoot coordinator Mike Schoonveld has contacted Oakwood Gun Club (Wheatfield, IN) and we will meet there at 1:30pm. The gun club is less than a half hour drive from Fair Oaks Farms. A special thank-you goes out to our friends at **Winchester Ammunition** for supplying the shotshells once again for all of the Fun Shoot participants.

All conference attendees who arrive at Fair Oaks Farms on Friday evening are invited to attend an informal barbecue dinner sponsored by the **South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority** in the evening right at the Fair Oaks Farms complex. We will meet right on the back porch (the outdoor terrace) of the hotel at 6:00pm. There will be plenty to eat and drink, and it will be a great opportunity to see old friends and make some new ones. All HOW Conference attendees and their spouses are invited. And if it gets too cold outside, we can always warm up inside the hotel.

Erika Dahl and Katie Holderby from the South Shore CVA will be present at the barbecue to greet the HOW members and guests. They will spend a few minutes telling us about what's new and interesting to see in the counties surrounding Indiana's south shore. They may also describe what is new on the Hoosier tourism front from their "South Shore" perspective. There is just so much to see and do in northern Indiana!

The HOW BBQ on Friday evening will be held on the back terrace of the Fairfield Inn (see photo at right). The hotel's chef will be doing the cooking, and the menu will include fish.



The main meeting will occur on Saturday, April 13 in the Newton Room at the Fair Oaks Conference Center. As usual, you are not required to attend any of the events on Friday if your schedule only allows you to be present at the Saturday meeting. See page 10 for a copy of this year's meeting schedule. We will have four different seminar speakers at the conference, featuring the following presentations:

- **The new APPLE Program (Access Program Providing Land Enhancement)**

The DNR's Adam DeLucenay is the new Grassland Biologist for northern Indiana. He graduated from Purdue University and previous work experience includes the IDNR Division of Nature Preserves and more recently as assistant property manager at Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area.

DeLucenay will be discussing topics pertaining to the new APPLE Program (Access Program Providing Land Enhancement) and how it is opening up more opportunities for Hoosier hunters. Other topics will include eligibility requirements for landowners as well as incentives for landowners who enter into the program and what the future goals of the program are. He will also discuss the process hunters will go through to gain access to properties enrolled in APPLE and what is expected of them once they conclude their hunt on the property.

Since Indiana is 96 percent privately owned, it makes sense to increase public access hunting opportunities on private lands.



Grasslands Biologist Adam DeLucenay from the DNR.

- **Fisheries Management at Willow Slough FWA**

Tom Bacula has been with DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife for nearly 10 years and has been the District 1 fisheries biologist since 2012. He oversees the 14 counties in northwest Indiana for fisheries management activities (excluding Lake Michigan). Bacula received his Bachelor's degree from Purdue University and his Master's from South Dakota State University. He worked at the office for a few summers as a seasonal aide before becoming an assistant biologist then the District 1 biologist.



DNR District 1 Fisheries Biologist Tom Bacula will talk about the fishery at J.C. Murphey Lake.

Bacula will be providing the history, current, and future plans at J.C. Murphey Lake located at nearby Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area. J.C. Murphey Lake is a 1,000 acre impoundment that supports a great bluegill and largemouth bass population. The division has stocked channel catfish, redear sunfish, black crappie and northern pike to diversity the fishery, but more anglers target panfish (primarily bluegill and redear sunfish) than any other species.

Bacula will also cover the past four renovations and how the fishery was shaped in those times compared to its current condition. Historically, harvest was one of the main ways to evaluate the fishery which was dominated by bullheads. Over time, the fishery has become more panfish-oriented and there is great interest in catch-and-release bass fishing. The lake has often been managed with special regulations to enhance the resource. While the future is uncertain, Bacula will give some tidbits on where it's going.

He will also discuss fisheries sampling methods, seasonal sampling strategies and touch briefly on survey design.

- **An Engaged Approach to Hellbender Conservation and Management**

Dr. Rod Williams is an Associate Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist within the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue University. Dr. Williams teaches courses in herpetology and extension education. His approach to research involves working with community partners to address large-scale wildlife problems.



Purdue's Dr. Rod Williams.

He has conducted research on a wide range of herpetofauna including snakes, turtles, frogs, and salamanders. For the past decade he has been working with Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, Indiana State Parks, Zoos, and NGO's to create www.HelpTheHellbender.org (a partnership focused on hellbender conservation and restoration).

This large research consortium has helped assess current hellbender population trends, population manipulations, habitat assessments and captive breeding and propagation efforts across the state. He and his partners are working on a long-term management plan to re-populate hellbenders throughout much of their historical range.

- **Actionable Intelligence from the Front Lines of the Outdoors Magazine Industry**

Long time HOW member and past-president Brent T. Wheat, editor-in-chief of GUNS Magazine will be our final speaker of the day. He will speak about current magazine publishing trends and the view from the editor's chair. He will also relate some of his experiences dealing with advertisers and marketing/PR firms at SHOT, ATA and NASGW, along with efforts to expand the digital footprint of FMG publishers.

Wheat is also planning to discuss a few of the things he sees when dealing with writers and writing on a daily basis. The do's, don'ts and tips, such as writing shorter stories, learning to write for digital, learning to handle editing, and maybe even picking up a grammar rule book once in a while.

He may also make the comment that writers should learn how to make in-focus pictures that don't have a weird color cast.

"I'll be straightforward...and some people won't like some of the things they will hear," said Wheat. "But it will be the straight scoop as I currently see it from my perch. My overall goals are to spur craft improvement and give some actionable intelligence on how to score assignments. I may even be able to give some advice on 'cracking the code' when trying to land those plum national magazine assignments!"



Above right: GUNS Magazine Editor-in-Chief Brent Wheat proves that he doesn't just write about firearms, he actually goes into the field and uses them, tests them and hunts with them. In fact, he recently reported that he is traveling more now than he ever has in the past. "I've had an incredible series of adventures that won't be soon forgotten," he said.

In addition to the speakers and seminars on Saturday, a slate of new officers will be presented to the membership and the volunteers will be elected. After the business meeting, we will all enjoy a buffet lunch prepared by the chefs from the Fair Oaks Farms kitchens. A big thank-you goes to the **National Shooting Sports Foundation** for sponsoring the lunch again this year at the HOW conference.

After lunch (and our third seminar), there will be an awards presentation by (and sponsored by) the **Indiana TIP Board** (Turn in a Poacher/Polluter) for this year's TIP Writing Contest. It will be followed by the awards for the annual HOW Awards-in-Craft contests. **Toyota Motor Sales** is the AIC sponsor again this year and they have our thanks.

Of course, we are planning another excellent HOW Raffle this year, too! The raffle at the 2018 meeting at Spring Mill State Park was one of the best in recent years, and we are hoping it will be just as good or better at Fair Oaks Farms this year! We have received a great variety of exceptional outdoors products for this year's raffle, including a stunning Henry .22 caliber American Eagle lever-action rifle, a beautiful Ruger American rifle chambered in .300 WIN MAG, an awesome Mossberg Patriot Predator 450 Bushmaster rifle, a CVA Optima V2 .50 caliber muzzleloading rifle, a gorgeous Mission Archery compound bow, top-of-the-line Alps backpacks, fishing rods and reels, fishing lures, icefishing gear, shooting and hunting gear, optics, books, electronics, knives, cast iron cookware, hiking boots, archery gear, a reloading press, camping gear and much more. More items are still coming in, too, so start saving your money for tickets now. You must be present to win, so don't miss it!

**Another Amazing
HOW Raffle!**

HOW Outings for Member and Spouses on Sunday

For all HOW members and their spouses who are planning to stay overnight until Sunday, we are planning a few different outings to choose from on Sunday, April 14th. Interested in fishing? Capt. Mike Schoonveld and some of the other captains from Indiana's North Coast Charter Association (www.charterfish.org) have agreed to host a fishing outing for us on Lake Michigan if the weather cooperates. We will be fishing primarily for coho salmon, but chinook salmon, brown trout and steelhead trout will also be possible catches. As usual for HOW's guided fishing trips, an earnest money check for \$25 per person must be paid in advance when you sign up for the fishing trip. If the forecast calls for high winds and waves on Lake Michigan, another option is to fish on your own at nearby J.C. Murphey Lake at Willow Slough.



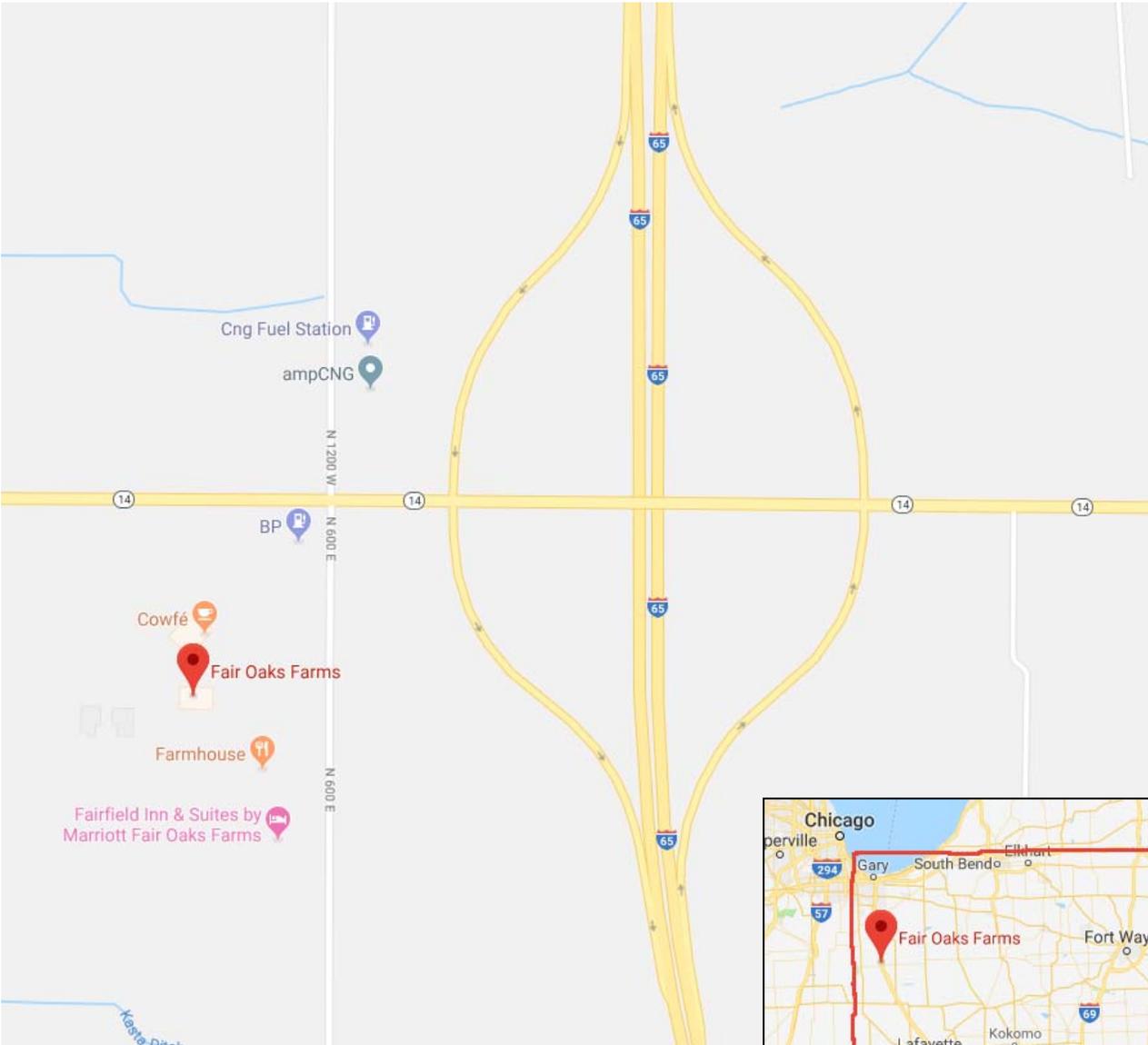
Other outings include visiting the Kankakee Sands Bison Viewing Area as a group to take photos and see Indiana's local bison herd, or participating in one of the 2-hour farm tours at Fair Oaks Farms (the "Dairy Adventure", "Pig Adventure", or "Crop Adventure").

Don Cranfill will be leading the tour at Kankakee Sands Bison Viewing Area, so be sure to talk to him at the meeting on Saturday to get the details.

Rest assured that we'll be working hard to make sure this conference is worth the trip. It will definitely be one that you won't want to miss!



Fair Oaks Farms Maps for the HOW Conference



From North (Chicago)

- I-65 South to Winamac/SR 14 exit 220
- Go West on SR 14 to 600 E
- Turn South into Fair Oaks Dairy Adventure

From South (Indianapolis)

- I-65 North to Winamac/SR 14 exit 220
- Go West on SR 14 to 600 E
- Turn South into Fair Oaks Dairy Adventure

HOOSIER OUTDOOR WRITERS

Annual Meeting on April 13, 2019
Fair Oaks Farms Complex
Fair Oaks Conference Center – The Newton Room
Fair Oaks, IN

MEETING SCHEDULE

8:00-9:00am

Registration, continental breakfast.

9:00-9:05am

Opening remarks by HOW President Troy McCormick; briefing on the day's schedule.

9:05-9:15am

Kelley Enright from our breakfast sponsor RAM Trucks will greet the HOW members and discuss the new 2019 Ram 1500 Limited truck. She will also let members take the truck for a test drive at lunchtime.

9:15-10:15am

Seminar #1: "The New APPLE Program (Access Program Providing Land Enhancement)". DNR Grasslands Biologist Adam DeLucenay will discuss this new program and how it is opening up more opportunities for Hoosier hunters while improving habitat for game species.

10:15-10:20am

Short break.

10:20-11:10am

Seminar #2: "Fisheries Management at Willow Slough FWA". DNR Fisheries Biologist Tom Bacula will talk about the history of nearby J.C. Murphey Lake at Willow Slough, along with plans for the future of the fishery. He will also discuss past fish renovations and the stocking of different species to diversify the fishery.

11:10-11:30am

Business meeting, Slate of new officers and election of new officers for the coming year.

11:30-12:30pm

Buffet lunch and social time for members, sponsored by the NSSF.

12:30-1:30pm

Seminar #3: "An Engaged Approach to Hellbender Conservation and Management". Purdue's Dr. Rod Williams will explain his work with endangered hellbenders, including habitat assessments, captive breeding and propagation efforts. The goal is to restore hellbenders to their historic range in Indiana.

1:30-2:00pm

TIP Awards-In-Craft presentation.
HOW Awards-In-Craft presentation (Sponsored by Toyota Motor Sales).

2:00-2:30pm

Break. Raffle tickets go on sale!

2:30-3:15pm

Seminar #4: "Magazine Publishing Trends and a View from the Editor's Chair". Editor-in-Chief Brent Wheat from GUNS Magazine will share some insider info on the firearms industry, gun journalism and dealing with editors. He will also give advice on 'what to do and not do' when writing digital content.

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.

2019 HOW Conference

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers would like to
Thank the following conference sponsors:



Friday Evening BBQ Sponsor



Conference Breakfast Sponsor



Conference Seminar Sponsor



Conference Lunch Sponsor

The 2019 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

**The Hoosier Outdoor Writers
would like to announce that:**

TOYOTA MOTOR SALES

**Will once again be sponsoring the 2019
HOW Awards-In-Craft Contests**



HOW Raffle Donors - 2019

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.

Al's Goldfish Lure Co.
Alps Brand
Aquateko International
Arctic Ice
B'n'M Poles
Backwoodsman Magazine
Bass Pro Shops
Black River Tools
BoatUS
BOLT Locks
BPI Outdoors
Brella Rainwear
Bucket Grip
Caldwell
Cauldryn
Celox
Church Tackle Co.
Cocoons Eyewear
Creason Wooden Pens
Daisy Outdoor Products
Dark Moon Hunting
Danner Boots
DJ Illinois River Valley Calls
Ducks Unlimited
Egret Baits
Environ-Metal, Inc.
Eppinger Manufacturing
Falcon Guides
Finn Tackle Company
Fish Logger Scales
Fish Monkey Gloves
Fish Print Shop
Flying Fisherman
Frabill
G.Loomis
Gerber Legendary Blades
Glacier Glove
Great Outdoors Indiana
GunProtect
Hawke Sport Optics
Henry Repeating Arms
HHA Sports
Hunter's Edge
HybridLight
Hodgdon Powder Company
Howard Leight
HT Enterprises, Inc.
Indianapolis Zoo
Irish Setter Boots
Kruger Optical
LaCrosse Footwear
LensPen
Lodge Manufacturing
Lure Lock
Mathews Archery
MEC Outdoors
Mossy Oak
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation
Norsemen Outdoors
Northern King Lures
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.
Off Shore Tackle
Otis Technology
Outdoor Guide Magazine
Outdoor Sportsman Group
PahaQue Wilderness
Panther Martin
Plano Synergy
PowerPro Lines
Princeton University Press
Pro-Cure Bait Scents
Quaker Boy Game Calls
Reef Runner Lures
RIO Products
ScentLok
Shimano American
Sierra Bullets
Snag Proof Lures
Sporting Classics
Sturm, Ruger & Co.
Swab-Its
Tales End Tackle
Target Communications Outdoor Books
ThermaCELL
Thompson-Pallister Bait Company
TTI-Blakemore
Vexilar, Inc.
White Flyer Targets
Winchester Ammunition
W.R. Case



Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

We have been asking 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). You may just learn something new, too!

Report from Dave Hoffman:

HOW member Dave Hoffman and his wife Judy decided to spend three months in Arizona this past winter, and birding was high on Dave's list of things to do. "I wasn't initially aware that Arizona is one of America's birding hotspots," said Dave. He was soon seeing and hearing about birds that he'd never seen before. "Visiting a nearby historic ranch I observed a scarlet bird flying up into the air to feed like a flycatcher. I knew that flycatchers are mostly drab in color, so I had to investigate," he explained. To get a decent photo of the bird, he observed where the bird was actively feeding and where the bird returned to perch. By hanging out near the bird's preferred perching sites, he was able to snap some photos after just a couple visits. The bird turned out to be one the darlings of local of birders, a **Vermilion Flycatcher** (*Pyrocephalus obscurus*). During the breeding season the colorful males attract attention by fluttering their brilliant plumage while flying above the trees.



"Surprisingly there's also plenty of game bird hunting in Arizona, and the most popular quarry seems to be

quail," reported Dave. Hearing birds calling while he lounged on his patio, Dave turned to his IBird Pro to help identify the neighborhood inhabitants. Among the local residents were **Gambel's Quail** (*Callipepla gambelii*), the most common of three quail species hunted in Arizona. After playing back the bird's unmistakable calls one evening, a handsome quail landed on the patio wall the next morning for a photo shoot. Sporting a unique head plume, composed of six specialized feathers, the quail's colorful and complex feather patterns make it easy to identify. Gambel's quail are one of those species that prefer to walk instead of flying. "I enjoy watching them scramble from place to place, most often in single file," said Dave. "They just lower their heads and run like the dickens across the road, and just as quickly they became one of my all-time favorite birds."



Above left: A bright red vermilion flycatcher. **Above:** A very striking-looking Gambel's quail. **Below:** Snow white cattle egrets.

Report from Bob Jennings:

HOW member Bob Jennings and his wife Yola spent some time this winter in Texas and Florida. While in Florida, they saw quite a few egrets. "These egrets are located on the fields where there are cows and donkeys," said Bob. "We've been told the donkeys are here to alert for coyotes, but we have not seen any coyotes yet."



The egrets which were seen by the Jennings' are **Cattle Egrets** (*Bubulcus ibis*). Cattle egrets like to hang around cattle (hence the name) and other grazing animals and eat the insects the large animals kick up. The birds also eat ticks and flies right off the cattle, which benefits both creatures. According to Bob, it was very difficult to get close enough to the egrets to get a good close-up photo! They were very shy birds.



DNR News

Division of Fish & Wildlife

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



For immediate release: March 25, 2019

DNR Keeping Tabs on Northern Pike Populations

In an effort to continue to track northern pike numbers, DNR fisheries biologists will set traps in four northeast Indiana lakes this spring: Diamond Lake (Noble County), North and South Twin Lakes (LaGrange County), and Silver Lake (Steuben County).

Since 2012, DNR biologists have sampled pike in 17 lakes. To sample pike, biologists set large traps in areas that are likely to attract spawning pike. The typical catch is 18 pike per survey, and the majority are 21-28 inches long.

Northern pike serve as an indicator of fish habitat quality in Indiana lakes, as well as being popular among anglers. About one-third of northern Indiana's 450 glacial lakes still contain pike. Fisheries biologists' goal is to keep that number from dropping.

Matt Linn, one of those fisheries biologists, says northern pike do best in lakes with cool water and plenty of oxygen down deep.

As lakes age and are degraded, these habitat conditions disappear and ultimately affect the quality of pike fishing. In general, lakes with better habitat tend to have more big pike.

"Over time many of our lakes have lost their cool-water layer due to declines in water quality," Linn said. "That forces pike into warm shallow areas and puts a lot of stress on them by disrupting their behavior, growth, and survival."

Various programs now in place are designed to keep numbers from dropping. Efforts to protect wetlands, reduce run-off of nutrients and sediments into lakes, curb man-made changes along lake shorelines, and better manage aquatic plants go a long way in preserving pike habitat.

"One measure of the success of these programs will be based on how well northern pike survive and grow in the future," Linn said.

According to Linn, better pike lakes in the area include Clear and Hamilton lakes in Steuben County and Little Chapman and Winona in Kosciusko County. Winona Lake also has the highest number of large pike.

To learn more about pike, see the Animal Information Series at wildlife.IN.gov/files/fw-pikes.pdf.

Media contact: Jed Pearson, fisheries biologist, DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife. Email: JPearson@dnr.IN.gov, phone: 260-244-6805.

THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

Darrell Lowrance

Legendary Fishing Industry Leader and Inventor

September 27, 1938 – March 16, 2019



Plano, TX: Darrell James Lowrance, age 80, passed away peacefully on March 16, 2019. He was surrounded by his family. Darrell was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on September 27, 1938 to Carl Lowrance and Velma Kathleen (Ross) Lowrance. He spent his early years in Tulsa, before his family moved to Joplin, Missouri. He married his former wife, Sondra Brown, on February 12, 1961. Together they had five children, four daughters and one son. They divorced in 1983. Darrell married Kathleen Pratt on July 1, 1992, in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

As a 19-year-old, Darrell Lowrance and his father, Carl, invented portable sonar and co-founded Lowrance Electronics in Joplin, Missouri. Their entrepreneurial family's recreational activities were outdoor-oriented and included fishing. Darrell and his brother, Arlen were among the first inland SCUBA divers. In 1957, their fishing experiences and underwater observations led them to develop the world's first transistorized, portable depth sounder and fish locator.

Lowrance received his pilot's license at age 16 after receiving flight instruction from his father, who had been an instructor for the Army Air Corps during WWII. He studied business at the University of Arkansas, but he interrupted his third year of college in February 1959 to begin full-time work developing a business plan. He re-designed the fish locator and set up a manufacturing operation. Darrell served as Lowrance Electronics' President and CEO beginning in 1964, shortly before the company relocated to Tulsa, Oklahoma. He remained President and CEO until 2006 when the company was acquired by Navico, parent company to Simrad and other leading marine electronics brands.

Lowrance Electronics literally created the recreational sonar market, and Darrell was responsible for many breakthroughs in marine electronics. In addition to the first recreational sonar product for anglers, the Fish Lo-K-Tor (aka the "Little Green Box"), he led in the development of the first graph recorder, the first integrated sonar/GPS unit and many others. In 1979, Ron Weber, the company's chief engineer, designed the world's first sonar with a microprocessor. Suddenly the power of the computer and its software was introduced into sonar navigation and fish-finding, allowing Lowrance Electronics to become a world leader in GPS products containing navigation plotters and digital mapping systems.

Darrell Lowrance was a fishing industry icon and was a man of vast intellect. He served on the boards of many industry associations, including the American Sportfishing Association (ASA). He was awarded the ASA's Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest award the industry bestows on an individual who has shown extraordinary leadership throughout his or her career in promoting the values of sportfishing. In 2013, Darrell was inducted into the International Game Fish Association Hall of Fame and the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame.

Darrell Lowrance was also a man of convictions and faith and will be immensely missed by family, friends, business colleagues, and past employees.

HOW Member News

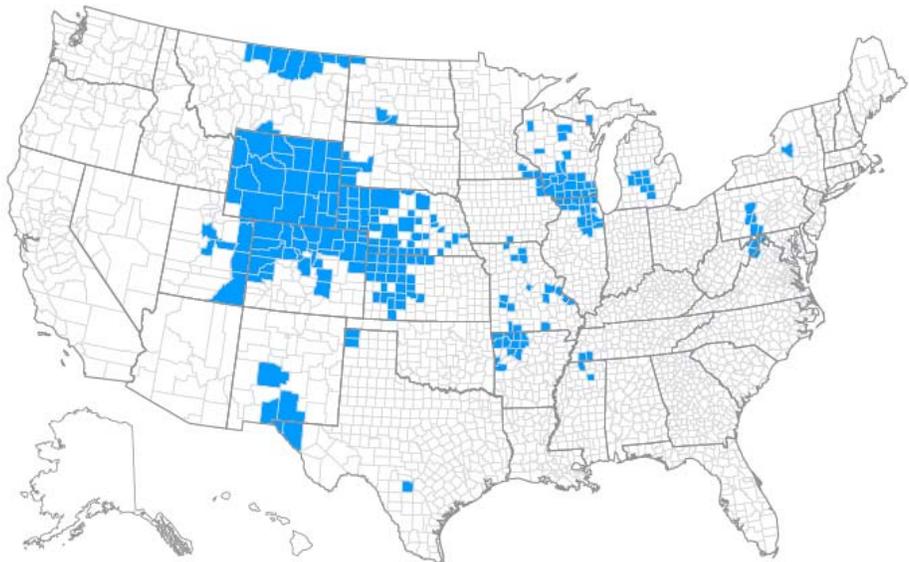
Bill Keaton Learns About Chronic Wasting Disease

HOW Advisor Bill Keaton attended a special meeting in Indianapolis in early March which focused on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). “The meeting consisted of three DNR employees and me,” reported Keaton. “That was not quite what I expected. I had little or no knowledge on how to limit the spread of CWD. The meeting was moderated by Dr. Nancy Boedeker, the DNR Wildlife Veterinarian. This is a position which was apparently created a couple of years ago. Dr. Joe Caudell, who I had met before, is the deer biologist for the DNR, and he was present, too. There was also a DNR attorney present, but I never figured out why he was there. He didn’t say anything.”

“Dr. Boedeker gave a power point presentation on the etiology of CWD and how it is spread. This was a bit technical at times, but I think she said CWD is caused by a “mis-folded protein called a prion” that is believed to be spread by feces, urine or saliva. At least as of the present date, it is not believed to be transmitted to humans. However, she cautioned that mad cow disease, which is similar, wasn’t believed to be transmitted to humans, either, but then a few human cases showed up.”

Where is Chronic Wasting Disease in the US?

Counties reporting CWD in free-ranging deer, elk or moose:



SOURCE Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as of Jan. 2019; USA TODAY

“Primarily, the DNR wanted to know what ideas the Hoosier Outdoor Writers as a group might have to help control the spread of CWD. I suggested that HOW could help by raising awareness in our membership and by asking that we put the word out to the public that if anyone sees a ‘sick’ deer, that he or she promptly contact the DNR, probably Dr. Caudell. Dr. Boedeker also said that some media in other areas had referred to deer with CWD as ‘zombie’ deer. She asked specifically that we not do that. We also talked about quickly raising awareness if CWD is detected through those of us who write regular newspaper articles.”

“If anyone would like more information, it is best to go directly to the source, Dr. Boedeker. Her email address is: nboedeker@dnr.in.gov.

Marilyn Culler Enjoys Spring Break in Alaska

HOW member Marilyn Culler did some real exploring recently – in Alaska!

“My adventure partner and I recently visited a marine biologist friend in Alaska for Spring Break,” said Culler. “We arrived on the front edge of breakup season – melting snow, thawing lakes and lots of mud. After a little sleep, we woke up surrounded by glowing mountain peaks and our adventure began.”



“Eight days isn’t a huge window of time to see all of Alaska’s beauty. The slower pace of life in Alaska, however, kept us from feeling rushed. From snow tubing on day one to seeing Denali on our last day, we experienced everything we dreamed of and more with our ‘local’ guide.”

“We ice fished for rainbow trout and king salmon at Chena Lakes Recreation Area near North Pole. Dogsledding with this year’s 7th place Iditarod dog team and tapping birch trees fascinated us in Fairbanks. We saw glaciers of all sizes from the air and on the ground. Alaska has 616 named glaciers among the approximately 100,000 in the state.”

“An early-season whale watching tour into the Gulf of Alaska with Captain Nicole showed off some of the best of Alaska by water: Dall’s porpoises, sea otters, bald eagles, mountain goats, a colony of endangered Steller sea lions and a pod of orcas. The ‘catch’ of the day was watching five fin whales, the second-largest species of whale, feeding in the waters near the boat. On our last day, we hiked along the Coastal Trail at Cook Inlet, with Denali in full view 130 miles to the north.”

“The varied terrain of Alaska is enchanting: marshes, beaches, forests, snow-covered mountains and glaciers. This state is definitely an outdoor person’s died-and-gone-to-paradise dream!”

“Oh, did I forget to mention the great breweries? Alaska, I’ll be back!”



Top: Portage Glacier on the Kenai Peninsula. **Middle:** Dogsledding in Fairbanks. **Bottom:** A feeding fin whale.

Gary Redmon and Friend Limit-Out on Tasty Rabbits

HOW member Gary Redmon loves rabbit hunting, and he had an opportunity to pursue some cottontails this past winter with a good friend. Here is his report:

“Recently, a friend and fellow hunter, Bob Muncie, sent me a photo showing the results of a day of rabbit hunting. The photo showed him with his daily limit of five rabbits. I had been on several rabbit hunting trips in the past with Bob, but I missed the past couple of seasons. My mouth was already watering, just thinking about a pan of fried rabbit with biscuits and gravy.”

“That’s all it took! Without any arm twisting, I called Bob and we made plans to go rabbit hunting.”

I met Bob at his home in Putnam County and we loaded his beagle Daisy into the truck. We headed to some local farms that had good rabbit cover: briar patches, fence rows and other good rabbit habitat. Not long after we arrived, Daisy was in hot pursuit of a bunny. She ran for over an hour before bringing that rabbit back around within a few feet of where it began. Bang!”

“With one rabbit in the game bag, we continued on to other areas and repeated the same routine. Several rabbits were jumped, with Daisy in pursuit barking and howling for what seemed like miles. Some rabbits eluded her by going into ground holes, while others ended in our game bags. Rabbits seem to run further than they did several years ago. We think it might be due to the coyote population which is always on the hunt for them; rabbits know to run for their lives.”

“This year seemed to be a good cycle for rabbits, and per the IDNR, peak populations usually occur at intervals of about 10 years.”

“Each of us had our limit of five rabbits, so we headed back to the truck. It was a good ending of another great day in the Hoosier outdoors. It was even better to share it with a good friend and end up with some of the best table fare around.”

“Get the skillet ready and put those biscuits in the oven. Bob, Daisy and I are bringing home the rabbits!”



Gary Redmon (right), Bob Muncie (left) and Daisy (middle) with a two-man limit of Putnam County cottontails.

Maddie the Wonder Dog!

by Bill Keaton

I have always had English setters and Labs for hunting. But with the decline of quail and pheasants in Indiana, I did not get another setter when my last one died about four years ago. We had a very nice boxer that we inherited from our son when she was seven months old. She stayed inside and became part of the family. In the fall of 2017, our boxer died suddenly of an apparent heart attack at age eleven. When she died, it left a big void in our home, so we quickly went in search of a boxer pup. At eight weeks old, Maddie became a member of our household in October, 2017.

When she was four months old, I started teaching Maddie to retrieve. I transitioned to using an antler in an effort to develop a shed hunting dog. To my joy, at age six months Maddie found and retrieved a five-point shed antler. She wasn't big enough yet to get it off the ground, so she just dragged it to me.



Last fall when Maddie was a year old, I was lucky enough to be drawn to hunt wild pheasants in Benton County. I could take two hunters with me; so I took my son, Will, and Tom Berg. I am an experienced pheasant hunter, so I knew hunting pheasants without a dog would likely result in a few lost cripples. My answer was to teach my boxer, Maddie, to bird hunt. To my great delight, she quickly became a very good flushing dog and retriever with only a month of training! We each got our limit of two cock pheasants on our hunt; and on the last bird, Maddie made an unbelievable retrieve.

Well, that leads me to Maddie's latest endeavor. We have always battled a few moles in our yard, but last year a terrible infestation of moles showed up. We mow about five acres, and every foot of it was covered with mole runs. I put out three different kinds of traps, and all year I only caught two moles. Maddie was digging everywhere last year trying to get the moles, but mostly she just dug up our yard.

This spring it is a different story. We still have the infestation of moles, but Maddie has figured out how to catch them with almost no digging. When she is mole hunting, she stands near a run very quietly. She cocks her head as though she is hearing them, and I can also see her nose twitching like she is smelling them. She very slowly and quietly moves carefully placing her feet like a stalking cat. I have not yet seen her catch a mole, but her technique must be very effective. In one afternoon, she caught three moles. In a week she has caught seven! Just when I think there can't be any more moles, she shows up with another one. I know they are different moles because she brings them to the house alive. I have killed each one to be sure they do not return to the ground when she is finished playing with them.



Who would have thought a boxer could be such an awesome and versatile hunting dog?

Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Cocoon Eyewear

The Ill-Tempered Snapping Turtle Acts As Cleanup Crew



Close-up
→

Original
←



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was correctly identified by seven (7) HOW members. John Martino, Troy McCormick, Ken McBroom, Gary Redmon, Bill Keaton, Michael Ellis and Alan Garbers all identified it. When we drew a name at random for the ScentLok OZ Radial ozone generator, John Martino was the winner. Congrats,

John! We will bring the prize to the conference for you.

As you can see in the photo to the left, the mystery creature for this issue was a common Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*). Snapping turtles can reach weights of 50-75 pounds in the wild, with a shell (carapace) length of 20 inches or more. Most adult snapping turtles do not get that big, however, and individuals with a carapace measuring 10-15 inches are the most common. They have a surprisingly long lifespan; the oldest specimens may live as long as 100 years. Males are larger than females, and most snappers weighing more than 25 pounds are males. Because of their large size and formidable defenses, old turtles have very few natural predators.

Snapping turtles have a reputation for being bad-tempered. When handled, they hiss and try to bite anyone nearby. That bite can be dangerous, too, since their powerful jaws can easily amputate fingers. Snapping turtles eat a wide variety of plant and animal material, including large amounts of aquatic plants and fish. Actually, they will eat almost anything they can catch, such as frogs, snakes, snails, worms, insects and even ducks and geese. They are also scavengers, and are happy to eat dead fish and nearly any other rotting animals they find. They perform a valuable environmental cleanup service!



For this issue, our friends at **Cocoons Eyewear** 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 Cocoons premium sunglasses. See below for more info.

Another Nature Photo “What Is It?” Question

Tom Berg has posed another Nature Photo mystery. The photo shown at right is part of a close-up of a creature that lives right here in Indiana. It is found throughout the state, and you might even see it in your back yard. Have you ever seen a color pattern on a Hoosier creature that looks like this?



This creature may be easy for some people to identify and harder for others. Do you know of any Hoosier creatures that look like this? As usual, you will have to identify the exact species. If you think it’s a species of frog, for example, go ahead and guess “leopard frog” (of course, it’s not a frog). But if you think you know the answer, send an email to thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you are right, you will be eligible for this issue’s prize.



As mentioned above, **Cocoons Eyewear** will donate a pair of Cocoons sunglasses of the winner’s choice for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. Check out the Cocoons website (www.cocoonseyewear.com) and see more than 400 combinations of sizes, frame colors and lenses. If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw a winner at random from the correct entries. Nature photos 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.

Yamaha's New T25 Outboard Features Lightweight Design and High Thrust Performance

Kennesaw, GA: Yamaha Marine's new high-thrust T25 delivers the power and grip to maneuver heavier small vessels with exceptional efficiency. Based on the award winning F25, Yamaha developed the new T25 in response to requests for lightweight, electronic fuel injected performance in a small, high-thrust configuration.

"The new T25 has the best power-to-weight ratio of all high-thrust 25 horsepower outboards," said Ben Speciale, Yamaha U.S. Marine Business Unit President. "If you have a small but heavy vessel to power, this outboard delivers on every level."

The new T25 benefits from the technology and features available on the standard F25 model, including an exceptional power-to-weight ratio, battery-less Electronic Fuel Injection (EFI), variable trolling rpm control and the ability to connect to Yamaha's Command Link® Digital Gauges.

The T25 also comes fitted with a patented dual thrust propeller, specifically tested and developed for this outboard. These big-diameter, low-pitch propellers offer exceptional thrust and efficiency for pushing big loads in both forward and reverse with exceptional control.

For great performance, the T25 also features a two-cylinder powerhead with two valves per cylinder and single overhead cam.

The T25 is available in both 20-inch (L) and 25-inch (X) shaft length to suit a wider variety of hulls and provides both electric and manual start on all models. The T25 is expected to be available in the spring of 2019.

Yamaha Marine products are marketed throughout the United States and around the world. Yamaha Marine Group, based in Kennesaw, Ga., supports its 2,000 U.S. dealers and boat builders with marketing, training and parts for Yamaha's full line of products and strives to be the industry leader in reliability, technology and customer service. Yamaha Marine is the only outboard brand to have earned NMMA®'s Customer Satisfaction Index (C.S.I.) Award every year since its inception. Visit YamahaOutboards.com.

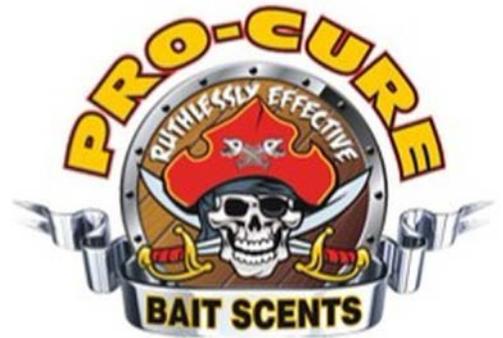
For more info or product photos, HOW members should contact Neal Wheaton at Wilder+Wheaton. Call: 404-317-0698 (cell), or send an email to: neal.wheaton@gmail.com.



HOW Supporting Member News

Pro-Cure Bait Scents Always Use 100% Real Bait

Salem, OR: Pro-Cure's number one goal is to produce products that truly help anglers catch more fish. We manufacture the world's finest bait scents, all made from 100% real bait. Then we enhance all of our scents with powerful blends of exotic amino acids, with UV and bite stimulants added to bring you the most effective scents ever offered.



Pro-Cure makes a wide variety of scents for just about any gamefish species that swims. There are productive gels, oils, liquids and powders for nearly any fishing situation, too. They also make egg cures, bait brines and bait dyes.

One of their newest products is the Rooster Tail Scent Spray. Pro-Cure Bait Scents and Yakima Bait Company worked together closely to develop a line of hackle-friendly scents specially formulated to use in conjunction with the Original Yakima Bait Rooster Tail. These scents are made of 100% real baitfish, UV enhanced, and loaded with amino-based bite stimulants. The Rooster Tail Blend comes in an easy to use 2oz Spray bottle. Although it was developed for use with Rooster Tail spinners, it will work with just about any spinner with a hackle tail. These sprays are made for bass, trout, crappie/panfish, walleye and others.



Media Contact:

HOW members may contact Annette Wise at Pro-Cure Bait Scents for more info on the new Rooster Tail Scent Spray or any of Pro-Cure's other fishing products. Contact her at 503-363-1037 (office) or by email at: office@pro-cure.com.

Swab-its® Firearm Cleaning Products Make Cleaning Faster and Easier

Springfield, MA: The American made Firearm Cleaning Products from Swab-its® include Bore-tips®, Gun-tips®, Bore-Whips™, Star Chamber Cleaning Foam Swabs™ and Bore-Sticks™. Our swabs come in all shapes and sizes in order to have the perfect 360-degree fit for any gun chamber.



Swab-its Firearm Cleaning Products are washable and reusable tools that make cleaning faster and easier. The lint-free, durable foam solves the problem of having to pick fibers and pieces of cotton from firearms after cleaning.

Designed to be lint-free and reusable, foam Bore-tips from Swab-its provide the ultimate in barrel cleaning with their tight bore-fitting 360-degree cleaning surface, delivering improved cleaning and maximum lubrication. Bore-tips are available in .22cal/5.56mm, .243cal/6mm, .30cal/7.62mm, .357cal/9mm, 40cal/10mm/.410, .45cal/11.4mm, .50cal/12.7/28ga, 12ga, and 20ga.

Media Contact:

Interested HOW members should contact Pam Den Hartog for more information on the many different Swab-its products. Contact her by phone at 714-441-7144 or via email at: pdenhartog@superbrush.com.



HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Al's Goldfish Lure Co. - www.alsgoldfish.com
Alps Brands - www.alpsbrands.com
Aquateko International - www.aquateko.com
Arctic Ice - www.arctic-ice.com
Arcus Hunting - www.arcushunting.com
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Backwoodsman Magazine - www.backwoodsmanmag.com
Balsax Fishing Lines - www.balsax.com
Bass Pro Shops - www.basspro.com
Battenfeld Technologies - www.battenfeldtechnologies.com
Bill Lewis Lures - www.rat-l-trap.com
Birchwood Casey - www.birchwoodcasey.com
Black River Tools - www.blackrivertools.com
BPI Outdoors - www.BPIoutdoors.com
BoatUS - www.boatus.com
BOLT Locks - www.boltlock.com
Buck Knives - www.buckknives.com
Bucket Grip - www.bucketgrip.com
Caldwell - www.btibrands.com
Camp Chef - www.campchef.com
Cauldryn - www.cauldryn.com
Celox Medical - www.celoxmedical.com
Church Tackle Company - www.churchtackle.com
Cocoons Eyewear - www.cocoonseyewear.com
Costa Sunglasses - www.costadelmar.com
Cotton Carrier - www.cottoncarrier.com
Daisy Outdoor Products - www.daisy.com
Danner Boots - www.danner.com
Dark Moon Hunting - www.gutdaddy.com
DJ Illinois River Valley Calls - www.djcalls.com
Environ-Metal, Inc. - www.hevishot.com
Eppinger, Manufacturing - www.dardevle.com
Finn Tackle Company - www.finnspoons.com
Fish Monkey Gloves - www.fishmonkeygloves.com
Fisherbeck Jigs - www.fisherbeck.com
Flying Fisherman - www.flyingfisherman.com
FOXPRO - www.gofoxpro.com
Freedom Tackle Corp. - www.freedomlures.com
Frogg Toggs - www.froggtoggs.com
G.Loomis - www.gloomis.com
Gerber Fishing - www.gerberfishing.com
Glacier Glove - www.glacierglove.com
Great Outdoors Indiana - www.greatoutdoorsindiana.com
Gun Protect - www.mygunprotect.com
Hart Productions - www.hartproductions.com
Hawke Sport Optics - www.hawkeoptics.com
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - www.henryUSA.com
HHA Sports - www.HHAasports.com
Hodgdon Powder Co. - www.hodgdon.com
Hoosier Trapper Supply - www.hoosiertrappersupply.com
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - www.hmhco.com
HT Enterprises - www.htent.com
Indianapolis Zoo - www.indianapoliszoo.com
Irish Setter Boots - www.irishsetterboots.com
Kent Cartridge - www.kentgamebore.com
Kruger Optical - www.krugeroptical.com
LaCrosse Footwear - www.lacrossefootwear.com
Lawrence County Tourism - www.limestonecountry.com
LensPen - www.lenspen.com
Leupold - www.leupold.com
Lodge Manufacturing - www.lodgemfg.com
Mack's Lure - www.mackslure.com
Mathews Archery - www.mathewsinc.com
MEC Outdoors - www.mecoutdoors.com
Mossy Oak - www.mossyoak.com
Musselhead Tackle - www.musselhead.com
MyTopo - www.mytopo.com
National Shooting Sports Foundation - www.nssf.org
National Wild Turkey Federation - www.nwtf.org
NextGen Baits - www.nextgenbaits.com
Norsemen Outdoors - www.norsemenoutdoors.com
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - www.mossberg.com
Otis Technology - www.otistec.com
Otter Lures - www.otterlures.com
Outdoor Guide Magazine - www.outdoorguidemagazine.com
Outdoor Sportsman Group - www.outdoorsg.com
Panther Martin - www.panthermartin.com
PahaQue Wilderness - www.pahaque.com
Pheasants Forever - www.pheasantsforever.org
Plano Synergy - www.planosynergy.com
PowerPro Lines - www.powerpro.com
Princeton University Press - www.press.princeton.edu
PRO's Soft-Bait Glue - www.PROsoftbaitglue.com
Pro-Cure Bait Scents - www.pro-cure.com
Quaker Boy Game Calls - www.quakerboygamecalls.com
Ramcat Broadheads - www.ramcatbroadheads.com
Real Avid - www.realavid.com
Reef Runner Lures - www.reefrunner.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
RIO Products - www.rioproducts.com
Secret Lures - www.secretlures.com
Shimano American Corp. - www.shimano.com
Shurhold Industries - www.shurhold.com
Sitka Gear - www.sitkagear.com
Snag Proof Lures - www.snagproof.com
Solution Products - www.solutionproducts.net
South Shore CVA - www.southshorecva.com
SportDOG Brand - www.sportdog.com
St. Croix Rods - www.stcroixrods.com
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - www.ruger.com
Swab-Its - www.swab-its.com
Sweet Owen CVB - www.sweetowencvb.org
Tales End Tackle - www.talesendtackle.com
Target Communications Outdoor Books - www.targetcommbooks.com
The Catch & Release Shop - www.prints.fish
Thompson-Pallister Bait Company - www.lenthompson.com
Tink's - www.tinks.com
Toyota Motor Sales - www.toyotanewsroom.com
Traditions Media - www.traditionsmedia.com
TRUGLO - www.truglo.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - www.ttiblakemore.com
Vexilar, Inc. - www.vexilar.com
White Flyer Targets - www.whiteflyer.com
Whitetails Unlimited - www.whitetailsunlimited.com
Widener's Reloading & Shooting Supply - www.wideners.com
Winchester Ammunition - www.winchester.com
W.R. Case - www.wrcase.com
Yamaha Marine Group - www.yamahaoutboards.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	_____ Radio	_____ Artist
_____ Books	_____ Photography	_____ Lectures	
_____ Television	_____ Teaching	_____ Trade Journals	
_____ Blog/Online Work	_____ 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:

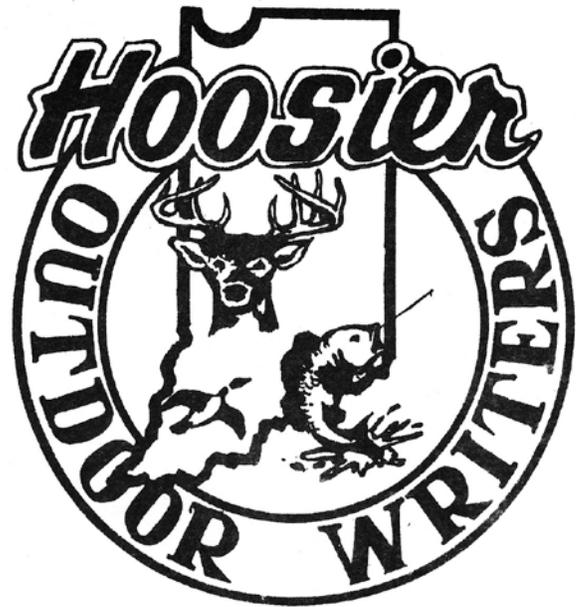
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor 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, internet/online, 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; 20 online



articles, blogs, vlogs or podcasts 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; nature lovers; sportsmen; outdoorsmen; public employees in outdoor fields; educators teaching related subjects; fishing guides and tournament anglers, 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 fishing, hunting, boating, hiking, nature, ecology, or in preserving the environment in general.

Calendar of Events

HOW 2019 Annual Conference:

April 12-14, 2019

(www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org)

Fair Oaks Farms Complex

Fair Oaks, IN

NRA 2019 Annual Meetings:

April 26-28, 2019

(www.nra.org)

Indianapolis, IN

POMA 2019 Annual Conference:

June 18-20, 2019

(www.professionalooutdoormedia.org)

Wichita, KS

OWAA 2019 Annual Conference:

June 22-24, 2019

(www.OWAA.org)

Little Rock, AR

ICAST Show 2019:

July 9-12, 2019

(www.ICASTfishing.org)

Orlando, FL

AGLOW 2019 Annual Conference:

September 16-19, 2019

(www.aglowinfo.org)

LaCrosse, WI

SEOPA 2019 Annual Conference:

October 23-26, 2019

(www.seopa.org)

Oxford, MS

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*.