

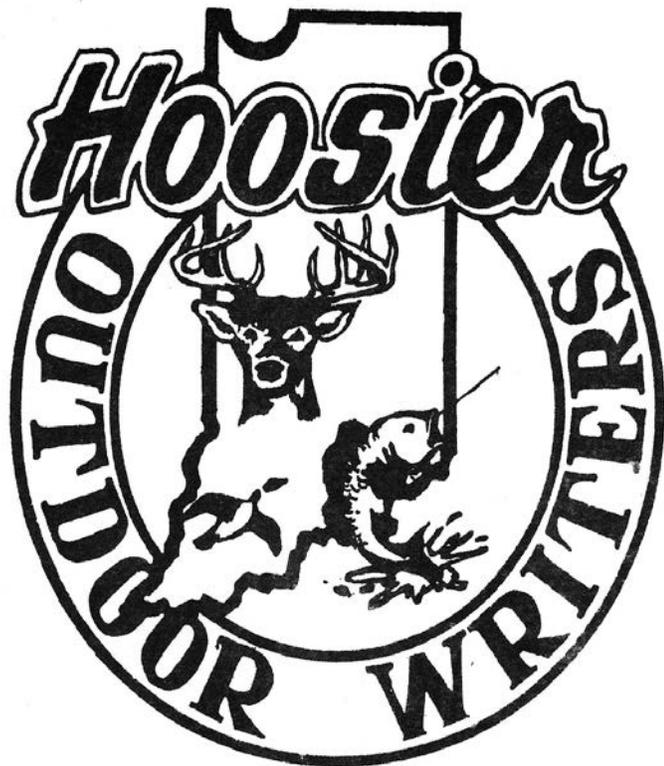
# The Blade

November - December 2020

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Pine Squirrel Feasting on Late-Season Berries", 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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Region 2 – Rick Bramwell  
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Region 3 – Mike Lunsford  
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2022

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Ken McBroom – 2021  
Bob Sawtelle – 2021  
Marilyn Culler – 2022  
John Maxwell – 2022  
Troy McCormick – 2022

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:** *A solitary pine squirrel sits on a branch in late-November and enjoys snacking on some bright red berries. He has chosen a good spot to relax – right in the middle of a tangled thicket which helps protect him from aerial attacks by prowling hawks. Photo by Tom Berg.*

# President's Message

by Kenny Bayless (*The Redneck Quaker*)

For the last 25 years, one of the highlights of the year for me is going to the hunting cabin. Not only to hunt deer, but to relive the memories of years past, too.

My friend Bill Klass was telling me what he saw while setting in his hunting blind with excitement in his voice. He not only saw several deer, but also a pack of coyotes with a timber wolf traveling through. He said the wolf stopped to check him out and it was close enough he could tell it was a female. We did hear several packs of coyotes that night, telling each other their locations.

The warmth of the wood burner makes you sleep like a baby while in your quiet bunk bed. It is so dark you can touch your nose and not see your hand.

Practically every year we go back into our memories of the year 2005 when Bill harvested the buck of a lifetime! It was 7 degrees below zero and just breaking daylight when Bill spotted the big buck in a small field with young trees spread throughout it. The buck went from tree to tree for over two hours and finally got within 86 yards of Bill.

The deer started over the edge of a deep valley and Bill pulled the trigger. When the 50 caliber muzzleloader ball struck him just behind the right ear, he didn't know what hit him. He dropped straight to the ground. My phone rang, and when I answered it I heard a high-pitched voice say "Come see what I got!" The buck field-dressed out at 244 lbs with 22 points on his head. Bill thinks the buck will score out over 200.

Hold on, I just heard a shot come from Bill's direction while I'm writing this article.....Ha, guess what? Here comes Bill walking towards the cabin and there's a buck and two does that he can't see just ahead of him. It looks like they are being herded like cattle.

I asked what the shooting was earlier and he said "Yep, I got two does". He completed another unforgettable hunting adventure at the cabin for the 21<sup>st</sup> time. Bill Klass is an outstanding individual. He has traveled the world in the military and served in the Special Forces. He still can't talk about his confidential missions.

Bill hunts with a muzzleloader for every critter he goes after and doesn't give a second thought to shooting 100 yards off-handed. Give him a high power rifle with shooting sticks and you're in trouble at several hundred yards. Bill is an industrial mechanic now and he can repair anything, from rebuilding a diesel motor to rebuilding a transmission for cranes and trucks.

Once upon a time, Bill and I were watching a very nice buck that was over 200 yards away and I told him to go ahead and take the shot. I didn't want to wound it. With a smile, he said "Just shoot it anyplace in the eye and he's yours!" As far as I know, the buck is still alive.

Keep your gunpowder dry, pilgrims!



# The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents and Memorial Section

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

No new members for this issue.  
See Member News Section  
starting on page 20.

## 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  
Marty Jaranowski – HOW President 1996  
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
Troy McCormick	2018
Mike Schoonveld	2019



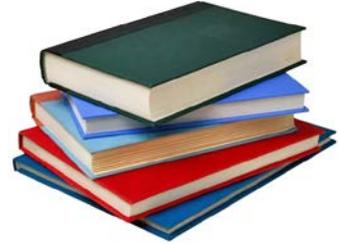
# Hoosier Outdoor Writers

## Awards-in-Craft Contests and TIP Writing Contest



**Calling all HOW members!** This is the time of year that we look back upon the previous 12 months and reflect on our best efforts. Whether it be newspaper or magazine articles, photography, radio or TV broadcasts, video broadcast or a full-length book, it is time to gather your best work and consider entering it in the annual HOW Awards-in-Craft contests.

Yes, you read right – this year we will once again have a Best Book contest! Since books typically take much more time to write and produce than most articles, we don't have a book contest every year. But it has been several years since the last one and it is time again!



The Best Book contest has slightly different rules than the other contests when it comes to the publish dates. All of the other contests require entries to have been published during the past 12 months (except for the TIP contest – see below). But entries for the Best Book contest are eligible as long as they have been published within the past 10 years. So any book published in the year 2011 through 2020 are eligible (as long as you were a HOW member when it was published, of course).

If you would like your book returned, either provide a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) or include a note stating you will pick it up at the HOW Conference. You may also specify that the book be donated to the HOW Raffle.

One other thing to keep in mind is that there is a limit of two entries per person for the Best Book contest – just like each of the other contest categories. Complete rules for all of the HOW Awards-in-Craft contests can be found on pages 8+9.

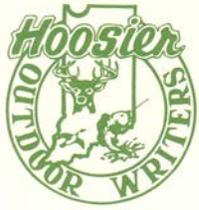
As has been the case for the past several years, our friends at **Toyota Motor Sales** will be sponsoring the HOW Awards-in-Craft contests again this year, including the book contest. So there will be cash prizes for all of the winners (first place, second place and third place). Our sincere thanks goes to Curt McAllister at Toyota once again for agreeing to the sponsorship.

While we are talking about contests, don't forget that this year's **TIP Writing Contest** is still underway. The Indiana Turn in a Poacher (TIP) Citizen's Advisory Board is again sponsoring a writing contest to encourage HOW members to promote the TIP mission, the hotline and support of the TIP Advisory Board.

Articles for the TIP contest must be published between February 1, 2020 and January 31, 2021. So the contest is still open and you can still write an article and get it published before the deadline at the end of January.

For more information about the TIP writing contest, please see page 6 which details all of the rules. So be sure to write your TIP article right away!

Good luck to everyone and be sure to send in your entries on time.



## Hoosier Outdoor Writers Turn in a Poacher/Polluter Writing Contest Official Contest Guidelines



Once again, the Indiana Turn in a Poacher (TIP) Citizen's Advisory Board is sponsoring a writing contest to encourage HOW members to promote the TIP mission, the hotline and support of the TIP Advisory Board. **This year the prizes are \$300 for first place; \$200 for second place; \$100 for third place.** So be sure to write your TIP article right away!

Requirements are simple and entering is easy! Article must be at least 400 words in length and must include:

1. Brief description of TIP (see below—does not have to be verbatim)
2. TIP Hotline (1-800-TIP-IDNR)

Although it is not required, preference will be given to stories that:

- Feature a "real-life story of TIP" or something similar.
- Are published in paid publications.

To enter, submit an electronic copy of an article published between **February 1, 2020** and **January 31, 2021**. The TIP Citizen's Advisory Board will review all entries and will select the entries that best promote the mission of TIP and encourage citizens to get involved.

**Entries should be marked as "TIP" entries and sent to Contest Coordinator Troy McCormick.**

**They must be emailed or postmarked by March 1, 2021.** Send TIP Contest Entries to:

Troy McCormick, Email: [contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org](mailto:contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org) ← Preferred

U.S. Mail: 3604 Sea Pine, Jeffersonville, IN 47130

### What is TIP?

Turn in a Poacher, Inc. (TIP) is a non-profit conservation organization that works hand-in-hand with Indiana DNR Law Enforcement to protect our fish and wildlife resources by increasing public support and involvement in bringing violators to justice.

A poacher is a thief who illegally steals wildlife that belongs to each Indiana citizen. Poachers rob licensed, ethical hunters and anglers from recreational opportunities they bought through license fees.

Citizens can help stop poachers in two ways. If you see, hear or learn about a poacher or any other fish and wildlife violation:

- Call 1-800-TIP-IDNR
- Submit a TIP online at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/7608.htm>.

If your TIP leads to an arrest, you may receive as much as a \$200 reward, and you can remain anonymous. More information is available at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2745.htm>.

# **The 2021 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest**

**The Hoosier Outdoor Writers  
would like to thank:**

**TOYOTA MOTOR SALES**

**For sponsoring the 2021  
HOW Awards-In-Craft Contests**



# The 2021 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

## HOW CRAFTS AWARD CONTEST RULES

The contest year shall be for material published or aired from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. All submissions, including photography, must have been printed, aired, published or electronically posted during the contest year. Exception: In the Book Contest, books must have been published within the past 10 years (2011-2020). In all cases, the entrant must have been a HOW member when the work was published.

The author, photographer or broadcaster must currently be an Active or Associate member of HOW.

The author, photographer or broadcaster must have been paid a standard rate for any work entered in the contest. Photos or articles published on a private Website or a not-for-hire Website will not be accepted. Photos/articles that are published, or radio/TV programs that are broadcast in trade for advertising or other non-monetary remuneration or for gratuitous fees (such as \$1) are not permitted.

At this time, blogs will not be accepted as an article. Photo essays (where the only writing is in the captions) will also not be accepted as an article. These types of entries will be disqualified.

This year we will again allow electronic submissions only. We no longer accept paper entries (except in the Book Contest). This has resulted in much less work for entrants, contest coordinators and judges. It also conserves valuable natural resources. Entries must be submitted via email (preferred) or filed on a CD/DVD and mailed. The only exceptions are in the Broadcast and Book divisions. Tapes are allowed for Broadcast entries, and physical books are required for the Book contest. See below for more details.

### **RULES FOR SUBMISSION**

- 1) Contest entries must be in an electronic form (except books). Entries must be emailed (or postmarked if mailing a CD, DVD or book) no later than midnight on March 1, 2021. Entries emailed or postmarked after that date will be disqualified. Send all entries to the proper contest coordinator.
- 2) An official HOW contest entry form must accompany each entry. The entry form should also be sent electronically. Please type entry details into the form (an electronic copy of the form will be provided).
- 3) Send no material that needs to be returned. No original material is required (except for the book contest). As mentioned above, print contest entries and photo contest entries must be sent in an electronic form. In the broadcast contest, tapes, recordings and DVDs are welcome.
- 4) All submissions of print entries (either from traditional paper or electronic media) must consist of one electronic copy of each article with bylines removed. This file must be text only – do not scan tearsheets or newspaper/magazine pages. This electronic copy must be submitted as a Microsoft Word 97-2003 Document (.doc) or as a PDF file (.pdf). Entries not following these rules will be disqualified. As mentioned, print entry files must be emailed (or filed on a CD or DVD and mailed) by the deadline.
- 5) Entries into the broadcast division require only one tape or recording and may be sent by tape cassette, CD, VHS or DVD formats. Radio and television entries may carry the broadcast station's name and call letters if they are on "as aired" dubbed tapes. TV entries should be dubbed minus commercials if possible to facilitate judging.
- 6) Entries in the photography division must consist of one electronic (digital) copy of each photo. This electronic copy must be saved as a JPEG file (.jpg or .jpeg). Prints, slides and paper copies of photos will not be accepted. Please include a title for each photo entry. Digitally produced photos should not be substantially manipulated. Allowable photo enhancement is limited to standard shooting/darkroom techniques, such as color correction, contrast control and image cropping.
- 7) Entries in the book division must consist of one physical copy of the book. At this time, e-books will not be accepted. If you would like your book returned, either provide a SASE or include a note stating you will pick it up at the HOW Conference. You may also specify that the book be donated to the HOW Raffle.
- 8) An individual article, photo or broadcast may only be entered in one category/division. Entering the same piece in multiple categories/divisions will result in the disqualification of duplicate entries.
- 9) There is a limit of two entries per category, including books.

**For all [Article](#) entries, send submissions to the Writing Contest Coordinator:**

Bill Keaton, Email: [contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org](mailto:contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org)

US Mail: 9494 West Base Rd, Arlington, IN 46104-9564

**For all [Photography](#) entries, send submissions to the Photo Contest Coordinator:**

John Martino, Email: [jmartinooutdoors@att.net](mailto:jmartinooutdoors@att.net)

US Mail: 12825 W 100 N, Kokomo, IN 46901

**For all [Broadcast](#) and [Book](#) entries, send submissions to the Broadcast and Book Contest Coordinator:**

Tom Berg, Email: [thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net)

US Mail: 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311

### CONTEST DIVISIONS

- 1) Writing articles published as 1,000 words or less (Magazine, Newspaper, E-zine).
- 2) Writing articles published as more than 1,000 words (Magazine, Newspaper, E-zine).
- 3) Photography
- 4) Broadcast (Radio-TV-Video)
- 5) Books

### **WRITING ARTICLE CATEGORIES**

- 1) Hunting/Trapping
- 2) Fishing
- 3) Conservation
- 4) General Outdoors (other than hunting, fishing, trapping)

### **PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES**

- 5) Hunting/Trapping
- 6) Fishing
- 7) Outdoor Scenic
- 8) Outdoor Recreation (other than hunting, fishing, trapping)

### **BROADCAST CATEGORIES**

- 9) Best Radio Broadcast
- 10) Best TV Broadcast
- 11) Best Video

### **BOOK CONTEST**

- 12) Best Book

## 2021 HOW AWARDS-IN-CRAFT CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Category \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Where published/aired: \_\_\_\_\_

Publication/air date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Entries and forms must be emailed or postmarked no later than March 1, 2021**

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

**For immediate release:** November 5, 2020

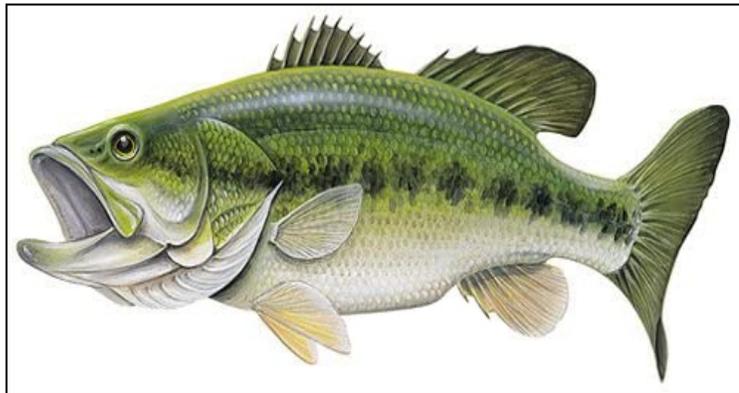
## **DNR Evaluates Effectiveness of Bass Stocking at Patoka Lake**

Through a partnership with Indiana Bass Federation (IBF), DNR fisheries biologists are starting a research project to evaluate survival rates of stocked largemouth bass in Patoka Lake.

The IBF solicited donations to purchase 3,200 advanced fingerling largemouth bass. More than 900 were stocked in May, and 2,300 were stocked in early November. All of the stocked bass are tagged with an internal passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag, allowing each fish to be uniquely identifiable by using a scanner.

Research across the central United States has shown stocking fingerling size (2-4 inch) largemouth bass into lakes with self-sustaining bass populations has had limited to no success at improving bass populations. This project is using advanced fingerlings (6-9 inches) to test if these larger fish will survive and grow to the legal minimum length of 15 inches at Patoka Lake.

“Thanks goes out to the Indiana Bass Federation for their fundraising efforts and making this research project possible,” said Dan Carnahan, south region fisheries supervisor. “We look forward to evaluating the results of this survival study.”



DNR will conduct spring and fall electrofishing surveys over the next three years to monitor the stocked and naturally reproduced bass populations to determine if they differ in growth, catch rates, and condition factor. Starting in 2023, DNR will search for PIT-tagged bass while monitoring bass tournaments to help determine if the stocking was successful.

For more information about fisheries research and fishing opportunities in Indiana, please visit [www.fishing.IN.gov](http://www.fishing.IN.gov).

To view all DNR news releases, please see [dnr.IN.gov](http://dnr.IN.gov).

**Media Contact:** Dan Carnahan, South Region Fisheries Supervisor, DNR Fish & Wildlife, phone: 812-789-2747, email: [dcarnahan@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:dcarnahan@dnr.IN.gov).



## 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 these pages 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 Board member Dave Hoffman recently observed a group of mergansers 'fishing' on his lake. "They'd been on the lake for several days, but they evaded all of my attempts to get near them," said Dave. To get within range of the visiting **Hooded Mergansers** (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), Dave resorted to the same equipment he used to photograph sharp-tailed grouse in the North Country. "I headed for my barn in search of my



legendary, age-old Leonard Lee Rue III photo blind," said Dave. "For the next two days the timid fish-eaters stayed at the far end of the lake. Meanwhile, three dozen mallards and honkers calmly foraged in the deeper water adjacent to our deck. The next day I relocated my blind to the deck, which provided a comfortable, level platform that also improved my view of the lake."

The next morning, after the mallards and geese arrived, Dave peered out of the blind for signs of the mergansers. "Surprisingly, I heard this gravelly, frog-like croaking or growling sound as the drakes tossed their heads back and displayed

in front of the hens. Their 'crests' or 'hoods' were expanded as they competed for attention and foraged along the shoreline into camera range," observed Dave.

Small fish dominate the hooded merganser's diet, but they also rely on crustaceans, amphibians, aquatic insects, mollusks and vegetation. Dave focused his attention onto what the diving ducks were feeding on, but couldn't identify any fish. "I did see a couple of mergansers emerge with frogs in their narrow, serrated beaks," he said. "But most were bringing up crayfish, and were thrashing their prey around in the water before devouring them."

"I'd previously observed their courtship from a distance, but hadn't studied them while they were actively feeding. I definitely didn't know about their vocalizations," said Dave. "The unusual little ducks put on quite a show!"

### Report from Mike Lunsford:

HOW Board member Mike Lunsford is an avid birder, and he has noticed that this year has been an Irruption Year for many bird species. Here's what he had to say:

"For so many reasons, 2020 has been an odd year; birders have found that to be true, too," said Lunsford. "Due to a poor crop of conifer seeds this year in Canada, **Pine Siskins** (*Spinus pinus*) have moved southward in search of food in what is called an 'irruption.' Large flocks of siskins have even been observed moving at night, which is highly unusual. This pine siskin was photographed in November pausing on a branch near my little cabin in Parke County. Redpolls, red-breasted nuthatches, and evening grosbeaks seem to have been on the move south this year too."





## Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors



### Report from Tom Berg:

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg enjoys photographing birds, and different species of woodpeckers are some of his favorite subjects. Luckily, woodpeckers are abundant in Indiana. The smallest woodpecker that visits his back yard is the very common **Downy Woodpecker** (*Dryobates pubescens*). Downy woodpeckers are only slightly larger than sparrows; they are the smallest woodpeckers in North America.

These interesting little woodpeckers are almost completely black and white. Their backs and wings are black with white checkering and white spots and stripes; their bellies are pure white. The only exception to the black/white coloring is with the male, since they have a bright red patch on the back of their head. Females have no red feathers.

“Downy woodpeckers are the most common woodpeckers that visit my feeders,” said Berg. “I get quite a few red-bellied woodpeckers and the occasional hairy woodpecker, but the resident downy woodpeckers visit my suet feeder multiple times per day. Northern flickers, yellow-bellied sapsuckers and pileated woodpeckers are much rarer – at least in my neighborhood.”

The downy woodpecker’s diet consists mostly of small insects and insect larvae that it finds on and under the bark of deciduous trees. Ants are a favorite food, but caterpillars, earwigs and beetles



are also on the menu. During the winter when insects are harder to find, these industrious birds will also eat berries, seeds, and suet from back yard bird feeders.

“Downy woodpeckers often scold me from the tree branches above my suet feeder if I am out in the back yard working on something,” reported Berg. “They want to get back to eating the suet but they don’t want to do it while I’m too close. I usually take the hint after I hear their high-pitched chirps and I leave them to eat in peace.”

**Did you take a cool bird photo while exploring afield recently? Did you see the bird in your back yard? While traveling far from home?**

HOW members are encouraged to send their interesting bird photos to newsletter editor and bird enthusiast Tom Berg ([thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net)) for use in future editions of the “Interesting Bird Sightings” page. Don’t worry, it does not need to be a rare bird. Your fellow HOW members would love to see your bird pictures.

# Hitting the Road with haRVey

by Phil Bloom

The pandemic did a number on 2020 travel plans, wiping out almost every scheduled trip and rendering us homebound. Cast aside were the 70<sup>th</sup> annual Wildflower Pilgrimage in the Great Smoky Mountains in April, a 10-day canoe and fishing trip into Canada's Quetico Provincial Park in May, the Outdoor Writers Association of America annual conference in northern Vermont in June, and taking our oldest grandson to the Grand Canyon and other national parks in July.

Except for a month-long trip to Florida in January, the year was looking like a lost cause. Then we bought a travel trailer. And it wasn't even my idea.

Disappointed with canceling the western trip with our grandson, Ben, we decided on a two-night camping trip into Michigan. Somewhere along the way, my wife said: "We should buy a camper." I nearly veered off the road.

Over the years we've done loads of camping; always in a tent – from state parks to national parks to wilderness areas. She'd had enough of crawling out of a tent in the middle of the night to wander through the dark to a facility. Frankly, I couldn't blame her.

The second day of our Michigan trip turned into a steady soaker. We managed to stay dry under a borrowed canopy, but when lightning began to flash all around us, we packed up early and began the 6-hour trek back to Fort Wayne.



Travel trailers are an excellent way to get out and explore different areas of the country, including some out-of-the-way gems. Photo by Phil Bloom.

I don't recall how much we talked about campers, but it was enough for Ben to tell his parents. His dad told him it was just that – talk. "No," Ben said. "They're serious." And we were.

I dove headfirst into researching recreational vehicle options and quickly found an invaluable resource – Travel Trailer & Fifth Wheel Comparison Guide, author Randall Eaton's 284-page compendium of all things RV.

It didn't take much reading (page 6) to find the best advice: focus more on construction (frame, chassis, axles, windows, hitch, exterior) than on the floor plan. Construction ends up being one of four categories he uses to rate RV manufacturers in three classes – premium, above average, and economy. The other three categories in his rating system are customer satisfaction, dealer rating, and resale value.

(continued on next page)

His annual ratings go back to 2009-2010 models. It was no surprise that Airstream lived up to its reputation with a number one ranking in the premium category every year but one. You get what you pay for with an Airstream, but you usually pay a lot.

It was another manufacturer that caught my eye. Grand Design jumped into the ratings in 2017, one notch behind Airstream and stayed there. Launched in 2012 by veterans of RV manufacturing, the Middlebury-based business cranks out award-winning fifth wheels and travel trailers for about one-third the cost of an Airstream with the bonus of industry-leading warranties.

After more research and walk-throughs of a couple models, we settled on a Grand Design Transcend Xplor RB221. It's just shy of 27-feet-long and has plenty of comfort features – refrigerator, stove, oven, microwave, TV, queen-size bed, and a bathroom with shower and toilet (no more stumbling around in the dark trying to find the campground greenie).

But the learning curve was just beginning.

The biggest dilemma RV owners face is towing capacity. The RV dealership assured me my truck (a 2018 F-150 with a 2.3-liter V-6 engine) was enough, but I was skeptical. So, I ventured into a tangle of technical terms like unloaded vehicle weight, gross vehicle weight rating, cargo-carrying capacity, gross axle weight rating, gross trailer weight, gross axle weight, gross combination weight, and hitch weight.

The riddle was solved with a formula created by a full-time RVer with a YouTube channel. Using his calculator, I plugged in the data for my truck and discovered with adding two passengers, a minimum amount of gear, and a full tank of gas, I was a couple hundred pounds over the legal limit.

So, I bought a new truck with a bigger engine. Problem solved.

But the learning didn't end, and neither was the cash outlay for essential RV accessories. Plenty of gear accumulated from decades of tent camping was repurposed in the RV, but we still had to buy water hoses (one for drinking water, one for other uses), water pressure regulator, water filter, sewage hoses and adapters, extra power cords and adapters, surge protectors, outdoor carpet, door mat, RV-friendly toilet paper, black water tank chemicals, leveling blocks, tire pressure gauge, portable air compressor, wheel chocks, and lots of little plastic baskets for organizing and storing utensils, clothes, and bathroom and kitchen supplies.

We even gave the RV a name – haRVey.

Our first trip was to Ouabache State Park, a shakedown cruise in which we managed to park the camper with knocking down any trees. The exit process wasn't as clean.

As I removed the cap on the sewage drain, water spewed everywhere. The dealer hadn't closed the valve gate for the gray water tank (wastewater from the bathroom sink and shower) and I hadn't noticed. After shutting off the flow, I attached the sewer hose to begin draining the black water tank (wastewater from the toilet).

But I didn't attach it properly, so when the gate valve was opened, the sewer hose came off and stuff (really nasty stuff) sprayed everywhere until I slammed the gate shut. Fortunately, it was a weekday, so there wasn't a long line of RVs in line behind me waiting their turn while laughing at my rookie mistake while I cleaned up the mess I'd made.

We followed up with trips to Mississinewa Lake and Chain O'Lakes State Park without any sewer mishaps.

In October, we ventured north to Traverse City, Michigan, timing it perfectly for a spectacular fall color display and the chance to visit with an old newspaper colleague and his wife. The crisp autumn air, a warm campfire, and catching up with friends was an ideal way to wrap up 2020. No sooner did we put haRVey away for the winter than we began kicking around travel ideas for 2021.

We're eager to find out where the trail leads us.

# Venison is Always on the Menu

by Mike Schoonveld

There's more than just corn and soybeans harvested in Indiana. In 2019, the DNR reported that over 114,000 deer were harvested statewide. With additional antlerless options available in many counties this year, expect that harvest to increase in 2020.

The various brothers, nephews, cousins, in-laws and outlaws in the Schoonveld family are proud to have participated in this harvest and we enjoy the venison bounty in many ways.

One of them is to turn some of the meat into sausage products. Each year we all gather at my brother's property in Parke County for "Grinding Day." My brother, Russ, used to own and operate a butcher shop, so he oversees the operation and provides hands-on lessons when needed. Some time ago, my brother John attended an auction where equipment from a closing Kroger store was being liquidated. He purchased commercial grinders, sausage stuffers, patty makers and other meat processing equipment so we can produce just about any sort of meat product.

Besides bulk bambi-burger (for chili, tacos, meatloaf, etc) and pre-formed one-third-pound burger patties, our Grinding Day work for 2020 resulted in a smorgasbord of breakfast sausage links, Italian sausage, three different kinds of bratwurst, ring bologna and venison snack sticks.

Some of the products were made using family recipes or online sources but we've also found the kits from Hi Mountain Seasonings to be both handy and tasty. Check them out at [www.himtnjerky.com](http://www.himtnjerky.com).



**Above:** Using the sausage stuffer to make Italian sausage links. **Left:** Ground venison comes out of the heavy-duty grinder. **Below:** Sausage making kits from Hi Mountain Seasonings provides just about everything that's needed for a successful day of making homemade sausage. Grinding Day photos by Mike Schoonveld.



Venison, it's what's for breakfast, lunch and dinner!



# Unscheduled Trip is a Success

by Rich Creason

March, 2020: Florida fishing trip cancelled due to virus. April: Alabama vacation cancelled. May: Canada and Michigan metal detecting hunts cancelled. June: New York fishing trip cancelled. July: Indiana camping trip cancelled. August: Minnesota/Ontario fishing trip cancelled. September: Michigan outdoor writer's conference cancelled. October: West Virginia outdoor writer's conference cancelled. Every trip we had on the calendar this year was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Fortunately, we were able to find a few things we could do which weren't cancelled. Actually, three of these were metal detecting hunts which were not on our original schedule. The first was Treasure Week in Pennsylvania in July. This is an annual week-long event where participants pay an entry fee and compete several times a day with other folks to find buried old coins and tokens stamped with numbers which correspond with the same number on prizes too large (or expensive!) to bury.

We took our grandson, Benjamin, to this event for two of the seven days. He is very interested in the Civil War, and one day there were relics from this war to be found. The three of us found bullets, buttons, buckles, and other items, and Susie and Benjamin both found a token for a prize. Susie's was for a Civil War book and an old ginger beer bottle. Benjamin's token was good for a display case with relics and an 1840 half dime in extra fine condition.

In September, Susie and I went to another hunt in Kentucky. This two-day event had some relics, a lot of old silver money, and lots of prizes. During the first hunt, I found a token which turned out to be the best prize of the weekend. I won a Garrett 450 metal detector package worth around \$450.

October found us at a Civil War relic hunt in Mississippi. Several of our friends have been to this event many times and told us we should go. Usually, this hunt conflicts with one of my outdoor writer conferences, preventing us from attending. The conference was cancelled this year so we headed south to try our luck.

We got up early on Saturday morning and headed for Booneville, Mississippi. In past years, this event had around 80-100 entrants. This year there was 125. I guess we were not the only people trying to find something to do. When we got out of the truck and looked around, I knew I had a problem. Almost everyone had short shovels to dig the targets from the ground. We had hunting knives which we always use at the hunts we attend. Usually, the item is buried only one to two inches deep. I soon found out these targets were around six inches deep.

Everyone lined up around two large fields. When the horn sounded, the detectors started swinging. I quickly heard a "beep" from my machine and began to dig through the grass. After digging about five inches deep and not finding the target, I figured it was a piece of trash and left it. The next signal was also that deep, but I found a Civil War bullet in the bottom of the hole. I knew I had just missed the first target. When I heard the third signal I reached for my knife and it wasn't there. I had dropped it somewhere and couldn't find it. I went back to the truck for a spare knife, then returned to the field. When the horn sounded to end the first 90-minute hunt, I had found a pouch full of bullets and one token for a prize. Someone else found my knife and it was returned to me.

We took a lunch break and rested-up for the afternoon hunt in the woods. Then we hunted for another 90 minutes in trees, brush and briars. Susie and I found more bullets, but no buttons, relics or prize tokens. We returned to the registration tent where the prizes would be given out. There were a couple spurs, a bayonet, some other neat relics, several metal detectors, and some metal detecting accessories. I was hoping for a great relic prize, but when my number was drawn it had nothing to do with the Civil War. It wasn't a detector, either. I won a one-tenth ounce gold coin! Not the top prize of the weekend, but probably one of the top five. No complaints here!



# Louie's Quest for a Personal Best

by Louie Stout

It began as a bet more than 10 years ago between two old guys who have been best friends since the early 1960s. Al Tucker and I, both Kokomo natives, had each logged smallmouth bass weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces. After Al caught his 6-13, the bet was made: whoever catches a 7-pounder gets a free steak dinner.

Fast forward to a couple of weeks ago.

Jon Howard and I pushed his flat bottom boat into the chilly waters of a small, northern Michigan lake on a crisp autumn morning. The lake has no access, so it took all we had to get the boat into water deep enough to start the shallow-draft jet drive engine and scoot across the lake.

Howard, an Elkhart native, now lives in Petoskey and is Tucker's condo neighbor. The three of us have fished together for years. But this day, Al chose to play golf with my wife Deb, leaving Jon and I to fish a lake where Jon has caught several big smallmouth.

Jon rigged up his usual weapon, a goofy three-inch pink TRD soft plastic on a 1/16<sup>th</sup> jig head. He poked the worm in the middle section to allow the ends to dangle.

"They really like this rig on this lake," he declared.

I sneered. The bass on this lake haven't seen the trendy lures that catch bass for the hot-shot Michiana boys, I thought, as I pulled out a chatterbait for one rod and an A rig for another. This is going to be easy.

We eased upon a small ledge that dropped from maybe 2 to 3½ feet of water. I began rapid-firing my heavy duty artillery around the boat while Jon pitched his sissy rig ahead of the boat. It wasn't long before Jon rocked the boat with a hookset and a big smallmouth wallowed on the surface. I dropped my rod, grabbed the net, and after a few anxious moments, I slid it under a 6-pound, 4-ounce smallmouth.



Here's the secret weapon for Louie's oversized bass.

We knew each fish's precise weight because Jon weighs and records every quality bass that comes into the boat and has kept accurate records for decades. Meanwhile, I kept chunkin' and a windin' around the boat with my trendy lures that I just knew the fish couldn't resist.

Ten minutes later, Jon rocked the boat again and I scrambled for the net. This one weighed 5-9.

I'd seen enough. "Um, Jon, can I have one of those rigs you're throwing?" I said in my most humbling voice. Howard gave me a quick seminar on how to work the bait while I readied a spinning rod spooled with light line.

"Cast it out there and let it fall a bit, then pull slightly on the rod tip," he explained. "You will feel the worm ends vibrate. That's key." Before I could make my second cast, Jon added a heavy 4-pounder.

I quickly got the hang of how to fish the lure and scored with a couple 3-pounders. My next fish weighed 5-4.

The wind began to pick up as it always does up north and Jon battled the bow-mounted electric motor to keep us on productive drifts. When a fish was caught, he released a heavy lead anchor into the sand/muck bottom to hold us while we fished around.

It was around 2 p.m. when I felt a little tick. I leaned into the rod and the rod leaned back. I knew it was a big fish, but shoot, they all felt big. I hollered at Jon to get the net as the fish zipped in front of us and tried to jump and throw the bait. It came partially out of the water – enough for Jon to look at me and say, “there’s your steak dinner. Don’t mess it up.”

The fish made several runs and spun the drag on my spinning reel. I kept working it back to the boat until it finally rolled to its side where Jon could scoop it up.

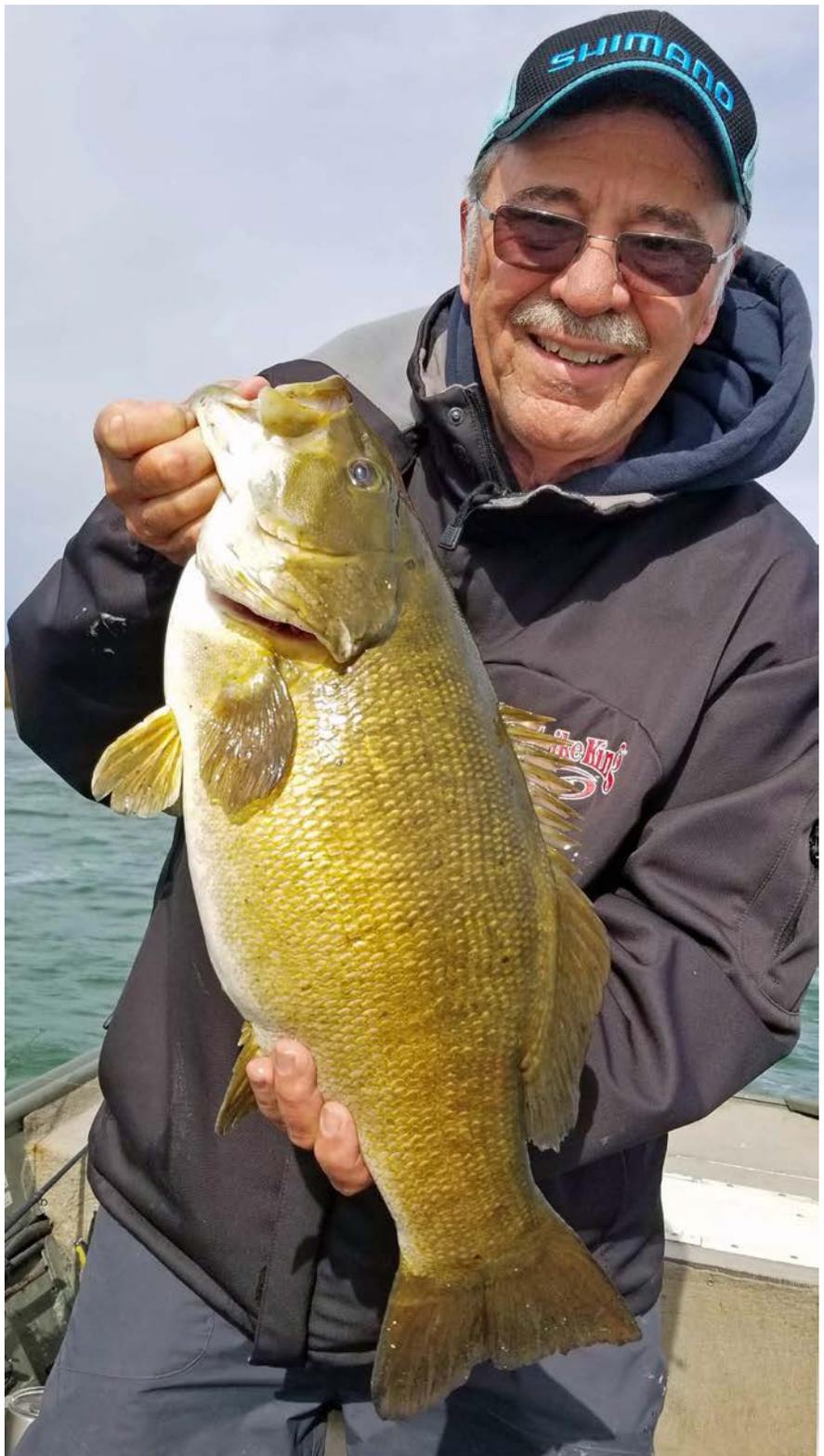
I was trembling when we placed it on the scales. The digital readout locked in on 7.71 pounds, or about 7 pounds, 11 ounces. I was still shaking after we snapped a couple of pictures and I eased the ol’ gal back into the water and watched her disappear.

Before I could pick up a rod, I texted my good friend Al a picture with only the words, “Steak dinner, baby!”

Waves began to crash over the bow an hour later and we knew it was time to call it a day. And what a day it was! We caught 14 smallmouth and our five biggest weighed 30 pounds, 13 ounces.

That night, Al and his wife graciously treated Deb and I to wonderful steak dinners in Harbor Springs, Michigan. The bill was a dandy, yet Al had only one regret. “I just wish I was there to share that moment with you,” he said somberly.

And so do I.



Louie Stout smiles over his personal best smallmouth bass that tipped the scales at 7 pounds, 11 ounces. He released it after a quick photo session, so it’s still swimming out there! Photo courtesy Louie Stout.



## THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US



**Ronald John Lindner – Age 86**

Fishing Industry Icon and Co-Founder of In-Fisherman

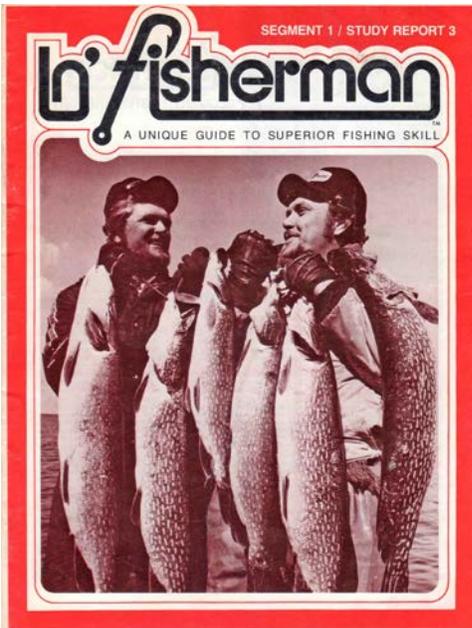
Ron Lindner, age 86, of Baxter, Minnesota, passed away at his home on November 30, 2020. He was born in Chicago on September 1, 1934 to Arthur Lindner and Estelle (Belz) Lindner. He married the love of his life, Dolores Hakes on June 2, 1956, and together they raised their family of seven children. Ron proudly served his country in the United States Army while stationed in Germany during the Korean War.

Ron is survived by his wife of 64 years, Dolores; children: William (Kay), Michael, James (Jorie), Kim (Robert) Slagter, Dawn Lindner, Lisa (Billy) Hoffs, Daniel (Alyssa); 12 grandchildren; 4 great grandchildren; and his brother, Al (Mary). He was preceded in death by his parents.

Ron and his younger brother Al were true pioneers in the era of modern fishing and left their mark on the fishing industry for more than 50 years. The brothers brought a scientific approach to angling that helped them evolve into elite tournament fisherman. The pair developed the Lindy Tackle Company and invented the Lindy Rig used by millions of walleye anglers.



They went on to create a fishing media empire that began with the In-Fisherman magazine and expanded into radio, television, books and more. From there they created Lindner Media Productions which spawned Lindner’s Angling Edge and a number of other subsidiaries.



Ron was inducted into many Sportsman and Fishing Hall of Fames throughout his lifetime, including the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in Hayward, Wisconsin.

Al Lindner said: “The easiest way I could capsulize and describe my brother, the three parts of his life that were important to him – his faith, his family and the fishing business. Those three things. His whole life, nothing else interested him, nothing else was important to him. It was his faith, his family and the fishing industry, 24/7.”

Visitation was held on Monday, December 7, 2020 at Halvorson Taylor Life Events Center in Brainerd, Minnesota. Ron Lindner will be sorely missed, but his fishing legacy will live on for generations to come.

# HOW Member News

## HOW Members Enjoy the 2020 Deer Season

### Josh Lantz (Three Oaks, MI)

Here is a report from avid deer hunter and HOW Past President Josh Lantz:

“As deer hunters, we spend so much time and mental and physical energy trying to be in the right place at the right time to cross paths with whatever it is we’re looking for,” said Lantz. “Sometimes you just get lucky. As I was pulling into the field and parking my truck at 2:00pm, this wide 13-pointer was within 100 yards of me, walking up a ditch directly towards me.”

“Good thing I never slam my truck door. I was still in my base layers and socks, getting ready to put my hunting clothes on over the open tailgate of my truck. That’s when



Josh Lantz poses with the trophy deer he harvested in record time this fall. Heck, he didn't even have time to put his boots on before taking the shot! Photos courtesy of John Lantz.



I happened to look up and see his antlers coming out of the ditch. He continued walking into the small patch of soybeans 50 yards upwind of me and I knew right away he was a shooter.”

“He must have seen my truck, but evidently didn’t see me – even though there was nothing between the two of us but open ground – because he calmly put his head down and started eating. I crouched down and found a blaze cap from my open bag, put it on my head and nervously unzipped my gun case. I slowly pulled out the trusty 220 and chambered a Lightfield slug.”

“I was sure when I looked back up that I’d either see him staring directly at me or no deer at all. I raised my gaze and, amazingly, found him still standing head down in the beans. At that point – still in my socks – I just rested the gun on the tailgate, found the target in the scope, clicked off the safety and squeezed the trigger. Fastest deer hunt ever for me!”

Awesome story, Josh!!

## 2020 Deer Season Continued

### John Martino (Kokomo, IN)

HOW Past President John Martino recently retired and he is spending a little more time hunting this fall. What a good idea! Here is a summary from November:

“Just a quick note about the opening day of Indiana’s regular firearms season,” stated Martino. “During archery season I normally hunt alone or with my brother Jim. But on the opening day of the regular firearms season it’s a ritual where my brother, sons, son-in-law and, for the first time, my grandson all come together.”

“It was a memorable one this year, for sure. Four of us all collected bucks during the first two hours of daylight. But what made it extra special was my grandson Brecken took his first deer, a beautiful 7-point buck. He is normally quiet and reserved, but the excitement he showed after taking his buck was heartwarming.”

### Tom Berg (Dyer, IN)

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg is still a relative newcomer when it comes to deer hunting, but he really enjoys it. “I always look forward to opening weekend of firearms season,” said Berg. “The excitement of opening morning is like nothing else – at least for me. I love seeing the eastern sky brighten and listening to the birds and creatures of the forest wake up. The frosty air is so invigorating, too.”



John Martino’s grandson Brecken (above) is very happy with his very first deer. Awesome! Tom Berg (below left) smiles after harvesting a nice doe this fall. Photos by Martino and Berg.



“I saw a small 6-point buck walk out in front of me shortly after legal shooting time on opening morning, but I decided to let him walk. A couple does meandered past, too, but I wasn’t ready to harvest a doe just yet. There was a lot less action that evening and even the following day, too, and the only other bucks I saw were far away.”

“I hunted a couple other days during the week, too, but didn’t see a deer that I wanted to take. The following weekend, though, I decided that if a big doe presented herself I would harvest her. Sure enough, as the sun started to go down the following Saturday I spotted a group of four does at the edge of the field I was hunting. They started out about 150 yards away, but they were slowly working their way towards me.”

“When the biggest doe in the group got within 100 yards, I aimed my Henry .308 rifle at her vitals and took the shot. She only ran about 50 yards and fell under the cover of a large oak. I am always grateful to be able to partake in the hunt and harvest such a noble animal. And I like to eat venison, too!”

## 2020 Deer Season Continued

### Joe Martino (Kokomo, IN)

HOW member Joe Martino's son Nick has become a regular on the trophy buck scene. He was successful in harvesting another big buck again this year:

"Once again, my son Nicholas waited until the last minute to tag a great buck during muzzleloader season," said the elder Martino. "He had a couple blunders this season, but he is a very patient hunter."

"Nick hunted hard all season, and even passed on a great 130" 10-pointer the day he shot this deer. He admitted it was tough to let the 10-pointer walk, but 20 minutes later, this big guy stepped out."

"This was one of Nick's last days to hunt for the year, and he really made it pay off!"

### Larry LaGrange (Jasper, IN)

HOW member Larry LaGrange's ten-year-old grandson Walker got his first chance to go deer hunting this fall, and he was excited. "Walker and his Dad Aaron worked on prepping for opening morning," said LaGrange. "Walker's 20-gauge shotgun's scope was sighted in, and he gained confidence shooting at targets. His Dad wisely had him wear headset-type ear protection, which cuts down on the jerky trigger problem. He was told once more that the area to aim for is just behind the shoulder where the heart lies, although Walker said he knew that already."

Here is Walker's description of the hunt:

"We got up at 6:00am and left for the treestand," said Walker. "It took at least 15 minutes to get dressed with all the layers of clothes. We got to the stand about 30 minutes before daylight so we wouldn't disturb anything. Once we were able to shoot, it was about 15-20 minutes before we saw anything."



"After we got ready to field dress our deer, we discovered that I had shot a 6-pointer and my Dad a 9-pointer. We took them to the processor and we saw a lot of other deer that people were bringing in. We got to pick the things they will make the meat into including meat sticks, hot dogs and brats, ground venison, and steaks. It was a fun day!"



**Above:** Nick Martino poses with his big buck from this fall. **Below Left:** Walker LaGrange and his Dad Aaron smile over the two bucks they harvested on opening morning.

## 2020 Deer Season Continued

### Brandon Butler (Fayette, MO)

HOW Past President Brandon Butler recently fulfilled his lifelong dream of tagging a big Colorado mule deer. Here is his story:

“Eight years is a long time to wait for a deer tag,” said Butler. “Yet, it’s only a fraction of the 30 years I spent dreaming about wrapping my hands around the antlers of a big Colorado mule deer.”

“Some of my earliest memories pertaining to hunting are of my grandfather and his buddies returning from trips out west with a trailer load of deer. Each year, Grandpa and others would load up an RV with a trailer in tow and head for the Rocky Mountains.”

“For many years, they brought along a 16mm film camera and made movies. Our family transposed them onto DVD after Grandpa died. Watching him and his pals pretend to be cowboys on horses with sidearms holstered on their sides is priceless.”



Brandon Butler and his friend Jeremy James are shown with Brandon's trophy mule deer. Photo courtesy of Brandon Butler.

“I met Steve Brigman at an outdoor communication conference around six or seven years ago. Steve and his wife, Kathy, own a beautiful log home just outside of South Fork, Colorado. When Steve invited me to come out to deer hunt with him, I eagerly accepted and began researching the units in the area. I settled on one I really thought would give me a good chance of tagging the mule deer buck of a lifetime. The only problem was it took seven or eight preference points to draw a tag in the unit. At the time, I only had five. So I patiently built points for a few more years, and was lucky enough to draw a tag this year for the second rifle season.”

“One of my lifelong best-friends, Jeremy James, who has lived in Denver for the past 20 years, joined me for the trip. I was really glad to have him along simply to spend time together, but also to help me haul a deer out of the mountains had I shot one way back in. As it turned out, that wasn’t the case.”

“I made it out to Steve’s on a Thursday afternoon, which gave me that evening and Friday to scout. I hoped to locate some deer, and possibly a specific buck to hunt. No such luck. After riding over 80 miles of mountain trails to glass different areas, I’d found one buck and it wasn’t what I was looking for. My unsuccessful scouting left me anxious. I went into opening morning with just a tip from a local that drove me up to 12,600 feet of elevation. I saw four bighorn rams, a moose and a couple dozen elk, but not a single deer.”

“Sort of dejected, Jeremy and I headed to town to regroup over lunch. On the way down the mountain, I stopped to talk to a few locals standing by the road. I half-jokingly asked them if there were any deer in the unit. They laughed and said they have to dodge them on the way to town every morning. I had thought the area they were telling me about was all private land, but they showed me a small access point of public land that unlocked a whole lot of opportunity.”

“Jeremy and I spent the afternoon glassing over 50 deer. Almost all of them were does and fawns, but we did see a couple small bucks. As we were leaving, the big boys began to come out. Just 13 minutes after legal shooting light ended, we saw him. The buck of my dreams. I told Jeremy that we’d be back in the morning to find this buck. We did. I shot him nine minutes after legal shooting light. A gorgeous, public land Colorado mule deer.”

## Alan and Dianna Garbers Observe Arizona Elk at High Elevations

HOW Past President Alan Garbers sent us a short description and photos from a recent trip he and his wife Dianna took to Alpine, Arizona:

“The White Mountains of Arizona are one of our favorite areas to enjoy the outdoors,” Garbers said. “Many of the mountains in Arizona are considered ‘sky islands’ because they rise quickly from the desert floor. They feature cacti and critters from the Sonoran Desert at the base, and then change to ponderosa pine and fir habitat at the wind-swept peaks. The White Mountains are different as they maintain a high elevation and remind visitors of Colorado and Wyoming. The elevations run 6,500 to 9,000 feet with the peaks rising even more.”

“Because of the elevation, the area receives more moisture than the rest of the state, and grassy meadows and conifer-aspen forests dominate. This makes it perfect elk country.”

“We recently stayed in the tiny town of Alpine which is nestled in a wide valley at 8,000 feet. Trout lakes are common, and elk are even more common. It is not unusual to hear cow elk mewing at night. Town folk have to fence off gardens to keep out browsing elk cows and protect any young trees they don’t want to be destroyed by hormone-filled bull elk looking to strip velvet from their massive antlers.”

“During a week-long stay in August, Dianna and I saw at least a thousand elk, some in small herds, some in herds that boggled the mind. If you want to see great views, enjoy cool weather, and see countless elk, we recommend the Alpine-Greer area.”



**Above:** Bull elk are common in the White Mountains. **Below:** Large groups of elk can be seen grazing throughout the entire Alpine area. Photos by Alan Garbers.



## John Maxwell Experiments with Impromptu Lighting for Better Outdoor Night Images

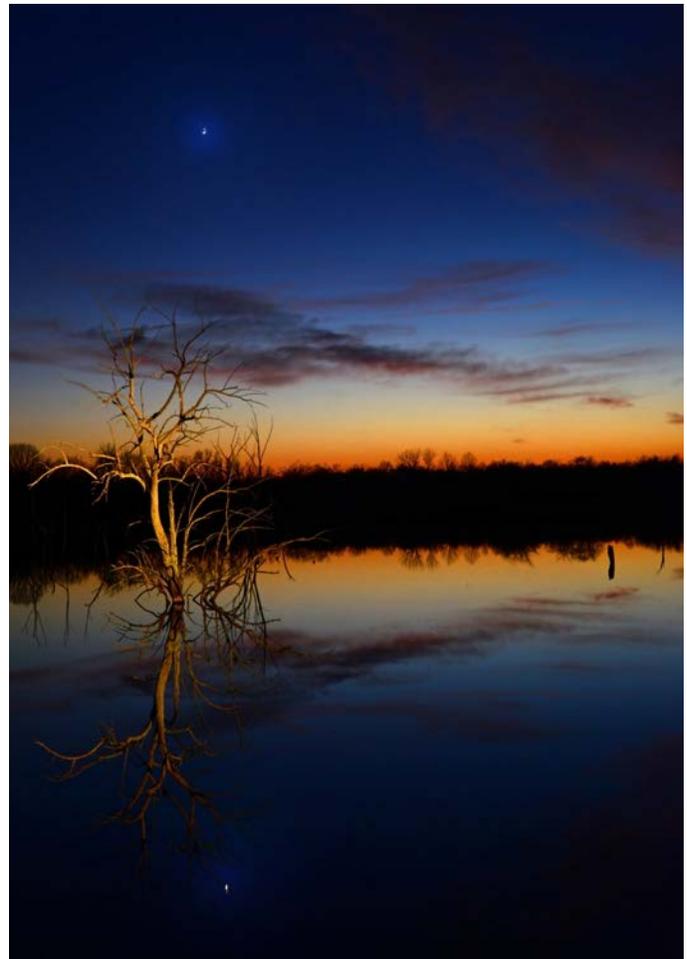
IDNR State Photographer and HOW Past President John Maxwell did a little experimenting in late-December while photographing the ‘Christmas Star’. Here is his report:

“During the evening of the night of the Winter Solstice,” said Maxwell, “I had a chance to photograph the Great Conjunction of Saturn & Jupiter (aka The Christmas Star), shining over Stone Arch Lake near Nineveh.”

“The two planets appeared closest in the southwest during the hour after sunset. While waiting for the sky to darken enough to see the twin planets, I took some test shots, knowing I had to keep the ISO setting (film speed) fast enough to allow a shutter speed below two seconds or so, to avoid the planet blurring from the movement of Earth’s rotation. I also had to keep the ISO setting low enough to reduce unwanted long-exposure image noise.”

“Using a 55mm lens, the test shots showed an ISO of 640 with a shutter speed of 1.3 seconds at f/5 seemed to be the best compromise. However, the image still seemed flat, so I drove my truck up the road a bit and shined the headlights across the flooded tree in the foreground. This gave the shot an added and dramatic foreground dimension.”

We couldn’t agree more, John, and you can still see the Christmas Star. Great work!



## Jack Spaulding's New Book *The Coon Hunter and the Kid* Now Available in Print and e-Book

HOW Board Member and Past President Jack Spaulding has released another new book, this one titled *The Coon Hunter and the Kid*. It is the heartfelt tale of a rural Midwestern boy's journey to manhood and the lifelong bonds and lessons learned on the hunting trail. Here is the press release:

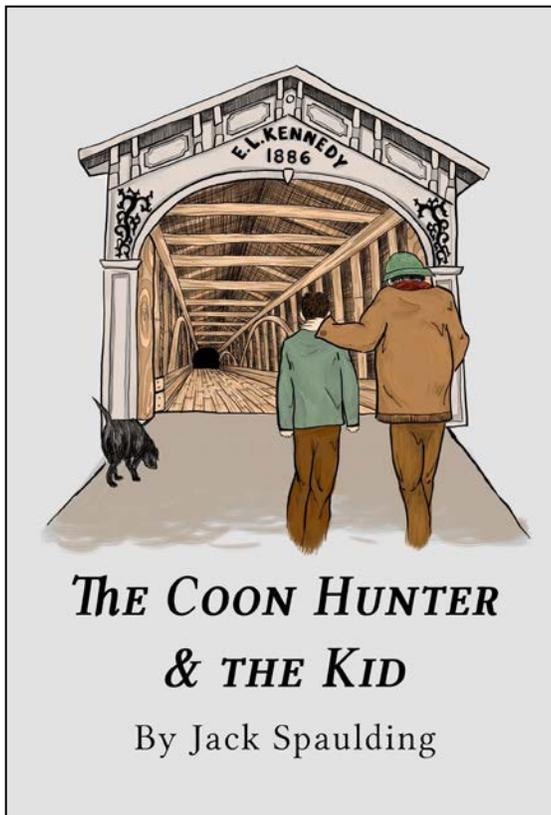
November 28, 2020 – Moscow, Indiana

Hoosier outdoor writer Jack Spaulding has just released his second full-length book and the first in a series about life growing up in the heartland of the Midwest in the 1950's and '60s.

*"In writing this book, I have shared a great deal of my life as a young boy growing up in a small town. I was truly blessed to be surrounded by so many good people. It's been said, "It takes a village to raise a child." Never has the saying been truer than in describing my life growing up in Moscow, Indiana. A lot of people cared for me, and the influence of my neighbors molded me into the man I have become. Few were more influential than an old coon hunter I called Pappy."*

### About the Author

Jack Spaulding is the author of the syndicated outdoor column, *Spaulding Outdoors – The Inside on Indiana's Outside* which has been featured in over 30 newspapers and publications locally, regionally and nationally. Jack has dedicated the past 35 years and counting to sharing his outdoor experiences and important information about outdoor sports and recreation and has received many awards and accolades for his works.



Other works (available on Amazon):

- **The Best of Spaulding Outdoors** - Jack's first full length book showcasing the best, funniest and most heartwarming stories spanning his lengthy career as an outdoor journalist. Includes the bonus short story collection "Life on the Southside of the County".

Coming Soon:

- **The Crick and the Kid** - The second book in the series of Jack's adventures growing up on the banks of the Flatrock River.
- **The Best of Spaulding Outdoors – Volume 2** A second collection culled from the archives of Jack's syndicated column titled "Spaulding Outdoors – The Inside on Indiana's Outside".

For more information or to schedule an interview, contact [jackspaulding@hughes.net](mailto:jackspaulding@hughes.net) or call 765-570-6701.

## Troy McCormick Finds Spanish Silver While Metal-Detecting Indiana Site

Current HOW Board Member and Past President Troy McCormick has become pretty serious about metal detecting again. He has reported in the past that he used to dabble in metal detecting years ago, but since the technology has really advanced in recent years he has been bitten by the bug again. And ever since he started using Minelab detectors, he is always thinking about his next metal detecting outing!

“The woods looked like so many others that I have been in before,” stated McCormick, “but this one held an unusual feature that caught my eye. As I worked my Minelab metal detector across the little creek that flowed from a natural spring, and past the remains of an old stone ice house, I noticed a depression in the ground near the top of the hill.”

“The 20’ x 30’ recessed area in the leaf-covered ground was the cellar hole from a long-lost log cabin that pre-dated the 1812 house on the property. We worked our metal detectors through the weeds, down in the old depression, and through the woods in a 50-yard circumference. The signals were good and the ground gave up some of its hidden riches.”

“The first old coin I found here was an 1856 seated liberty half dime, and my oldest was an 1805 Spanish ½ Real. I had never found a Spanish silver coin before and it was the highlight of my year of metal detecting. To make it a little more interesting, this coin had been ‘holed’ at some point in the past. Travelers in the late 1700’s and early 1800’s often drilled small holes in their valuable coins and sewed them into their clothes so they wouldn’t be lost or stolen.”



1856 Seated Liberty Half Dime

1805 1/2 Spanish Real



“We recovered dozens of Colonial Era flat buttons from the late 1700’s up to the 1850’s (photo at left). Some were gilded in gold or silver wash and some were Tombac (a brass alloy) and pewter. We also found late 1700’s pewter spoons and forks, Colonial buckles, and other historical items.”

“Our next trip there will include digging and sifting the floor of the cellar hole. It has already yielded pottery shards, pieces of imported china, and old bottles from the holes we dug retrieving coins and buttons.”

“I can’t wait to go back!”

## **Bryan McFadden Explores Basswood Lake in the BWCA**

HOW Member Bryan McFadden loves the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) in Minnesota. In fact, he figures the year just isn't complete without a trip to the BWCA for fishing and relaxation. Here's what he had to say about this summer's trip"

"The annual guy's trip to northern Minnesota for fishing and to live in tents for a week had finally come," said McFadden. "It was mid-July and the anticipation of biting bugs, snoring men, and a long drive to the Northwoods was fresh in my mind. We packed the night before and were taking two trucks with five guys early the next morning to stay in Ely, MN in a bunkhouse. The next day we would be headed by boat to Basswood Lake, seeking a good campsite to spend the week."

"The morning came with a good weather outlook, cool temps, and forecast for little rain, as we sipped coffee and waited for our fishing licenses and fresh leeches. The weather had been hot in prior weeks and the outfitter was less than optimistic on how the fishing would be. 'It's been rough going, lately' is what he said exactly. I mentally prepared to lose weight on this trip with that kind of response. We packed the boats with our supplies and wondered if we brought enough food. I grinned at my son and said, 'I hope you like fried pinecones', as we shoved off the pier."

"The boat ride is a couple hours to get from Moose Lake to Basswood Lake, especially loaded as we were. It took another couple hours to find a campsite that was suitable for us. We attempted to find something open enough to house three tents and a screened tent without having to tuck too far into the woods with the bugs. The spot we chose was off in a cove away from the main motorboat travel corridor of the lake. It was quiet and a spot we had never stayed in the past. We set camp, cut firewood, cooked food, and started fishing."

"The fishing started slow early in the week but the cooler weather was starting to become the normal as the fish started to bite. The first couple days we ate the steaks and chops we had brought frozen hoping to bank some fish fillets in the cooler. However, the fish needed the first couple days to acclimate to the new air temperature of 70s versus 90s the week prior. On the third day the fish started biting. That day I caught six species: bluegill, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, perch, crappie and northern pike. The fishing was picking up but no walleye dinners yet. We targeted the bluegill beds and were successful at pulling up some ten inchers from the bottom. Soon we realized that nearly every species was deep. We started to rig slip bobbers with leeches on the bottom. My buddy Shaun and I used a medium sinker 12 inches from the bottom with a small hook and a leech – no bobber. Finally, the walleye started to show up."

"On the second to the last day a storm blew in, leaving us with a steady rain. After avoiding the rain for a while under the rainfly, I decided to convince Shaun to head out with me. I told him the walleye like the rain. We put on our raingear, bailed the boat of water, and loaded our fishing poles. We moored the boat right off a rocky point where the wind was blowing in and used the bottom rig. We immediately started catching four and five-pound smallies in twenty feet of water. Those fish fight like they are twice their size."

"I felt another hit and set the hook. I looked at Shaun and told him this is a big fish! I knew because it felt like I had hooked the anchor; it would not come up. My reel started to scream as I fought the beast. It took about ten minutes to get it to the surface and Shaun successfully netted it. I threw on my Kevlar gloves, grabbed it, measured it, and posed for a picture, all in the rain. It was the biggest walleye of the trip – 28 inches long. Then I released it and sent it on its way. After all, we had plenty of other fish to eat!"



## Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Falcon Guides

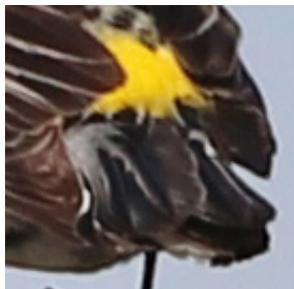
### Yellow-Rumped Warblers Can Eat “Wax Berries”



Close-up



Original



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was not as hard as we thought, because it was correctly identified by a total of 9 HOW members! Mike Schoonveld, Don Cranfill, Richard Hines, Troy McCormick, Bill Keaton, Bryan McFadden, Mike Lunsford, John Maxwell and Phil Seng all

identified it. When we drew a name at random for the **Toyota** prize package, Troy McCormick was the winner. Congrats, Troy! Our friend Curt McAllister from Toyota will send the prize directly to you.

As you can see in the photo to the left, the mystery creature for this issue was a **Yellow-Rumped Warbler** (*Setophaga coronata*). These warblers can be identified by the bright yellow patch on their rump, just above the tail feathers. They also sport yellow patches on their sides just below the wing and often on the top of their heads. Some individuals have a yellow throat, too. The rest of their feathers are a striking mixture of black, white and gray. During the winter all of their colorations are more subdued than during the spring migration.

Most yellow-rumped warblers spend the summer in their breeding grounds in Canada and Alaska, but they pass through Indiana in huge numbers during the spring and fall migrations. They can be attracted to backyard bird feeders during migration, and some of the foods they will eat include sunflower seeds, suet and thistle seeds. During the fall migration they also eat plenty of berries. One interesting fact about yellow-rumped warblers is they are the only warblers that can digest the waxes found in the berries of wax myrtle and bayberry shrubs.

For this issue, our friends at **Falcon Guides** have donated a very nice prize package for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be a group of seven different books from Falcon Guides. See below for more info on the prize and this issue’s nature question.

**FALCONGUIDES®**

### Berg Poses 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 can be seen right here in Indiana – at least at certain times of the year. It can be seen throughout the state, and you might even see it in your back yard. Does it look familiar?

This creature may be easy for some people to identify and harder for others, but we’ll see. Do you know of any creatures that look like this? As usual, you will have to identify the exact species. If you think it’s a species of toad, for example, go ahead and guess “Fowler’s toad” (of course, it’s not a toad). If you think you know the answer, send an email to [thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net). If you’re right, you will be entered in this issue’s prize drawing!



As mentioned, **Falcon Guides** ([www.falcon.com](http://www.falcon.com)) has donated some great outdoors books for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. The winner gets these books: *Hiking Indiana*, *Prairie Wildflowers*, *Scats & Tracks of the Midwest*, *Trail Mix*, *Primal*, *Walks of a Lifetime in America’s National Parks*, and *Insects of North America*. If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw a winner at random from the correct entries. Nature photos on this page by Tom Berg.



# The HOW Trading Post

*This section of the newsletter is set aside for HOW members to list items (especially outdoor gear) that they would like to sell. Limit one listing (or group listing) per member, per issue. Please contact the seller for more info – not the newsletter editor!*

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## **For Sale: Winchester Select Platinum Sporting 12 Gauge Shotgun**

Winchester Select Platinum Sporting 12 gauge O/U shotgun, 28 inch barrels with the 5 original choke tubes and 12 additional choke tubes. Comes with original Winchester Red Case and all paperwork. Original excellent condition. Bought new in 2008 and shot skeet one time only. \$2,200 OBO. Contact Bob Jennings at 812-798-0783 or via email: [Jenningsr500@gmail.com](mailto:Jenningsr500@gmail.com).



## 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.

### **Renfro Productions' Sports Shows Postponed for 2021**

**For immediate release:** December 2, 2020

**Anderson, IN:** Several of the Midwest's most popular and long-standing consumer sports shows, including the nation's largest consumer sports show, The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show, have been postponed for 2021 due to health concerns and venue capacity restrictions brought about by the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **INDIANAPOLIS**

The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show set for February 19-28, 2021 has been postponed. The show also features the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Indiana Motorcycle and Powersports Expo February 19-21 and the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Indiana Deer, Turkey and Waterfowl Expo February 25-28, and both shows are also postponed. These shows combine to take up every building at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis.

#### **CINCINNATI**

Two of Cincinnati's most popular and established sports shows, the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual 2021 Ford Cincinnati Boat, Sport & Travel Show (January 15-17 and January 20-24) and the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual 2021 Cincinnati Golf Show (January 22-24), have been postponed due to State of Ohio ordered capacity and other restrictions from the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

The decision also postpones the launch of two new shows: the inaugural Cincinnati Fishing & Tackle Expo (January 15-17) and the inaugural Cincinnati Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo (January 22-24). All events were scheduled to take place at the Duke Energy Convention Center in downtown Cincinnati.

#### **Statement from Renfro Productions, Inc. President Kevin Renfro**

Health concerns and capacity restrictions related to the pandemic at both the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati and the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis have convinced us that we can't put on these shows and maintain our established level of excellence and meet the expectations of both our attendees and exhibitors.

This is the first time in our 66-year history that we've ever postponed a show, and it's a major disappointment to our entire organization. But the good news is that we expect to be back bigger and better than ever in 2022.

We are pleased to announce that, to support our exhibitors, Renfro Productions, Inc. will be coming out with a special e-Reader edition of the show programs for all the postponed shows in both Cincinnati and Indianapolis. More details will be announced in the coming weeks.

#### **2022 Cincinnati and Indianapolis Show Dates**

The 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Ford Cincinnati Boat, Sport & Travel Show, the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Cincinnati Golf Show, and the all-new Cincinnati Fishing & Tackle Expo will arrive at the Duke Energy Convention Center on January 14, 2022, and the all-new Cincinnati Deer, Turkey, & Waterfowl Expo will arrive on January 21, 2022.

The 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show and the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Indiana Motorcycle & Powersport Expo, will arrive at the Indiana State Fairgrounds on February 18, 2022, and the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Indiana Deer, Turkey, & Waterfowl Expo will arrive on February 24, 2022.

For 66 years, Renfro Productions Inc., the most trusted name in the sport show industry, has produced outstanding consumer sports shows, including the nation's largest consumer sports show, the Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport, and Travel Show. For more info on all Renfro Productions shows, visit [CincySportShow.com](http://CincySportShow.com) or [IndySportShow.com](http://IndySportShow.com)

**Media Contact:** Dan Forst, Renfro Productions Media Relations, email: [dforst@renfroproductions.com](mailto:dforst@renfroproductions.com), phone: 317-441-7106.

## HOW Supporting Member News

### Seaguar Line Brings Fishing Success at First Ice

Throughout the Northland, intrepid anglers are taking their first tentative steps onto the frozen surfaces of pine-studded lakes, welcoming another season of hardwater fishing. After weeks of organizing tackle, sharpening auger blades, charging batteries, and spooling reels, holes are being cut, bites are being triggered, and fish tails are slapping the ice. With most of a tumultuous, uncertainty-filled calendar year now in the rearview mirror, the action-packed first ice period is finally upon us.



“The first weeks of fishable ice represent one of the truly exceptional hardwater opportunities during the winter months,” states Troy Peterson, a.k.a. ‘Mr. Bluegill’ — a full-time guide and hardwater specialist from eastern Wisconsin. “After a fall of scouting new lakes, organizing gear, and watching last year’s videos on YouTube, I’m more ready than ever to get on the ice — and shallow water panfish and walleye are at the top of my agenda.”

Panfish beckon to ice anglers all season long, and the first weeks of safe ice witness some enormous crappies and sumo bluegills being extracted from the depths. You’ll find first ice panfish in two general locations: along the outside edges of remnant green weedbeds and suspended over the main basin of the lake. As winter progresses, those weedline fish often trend toward the basin or scatter over deep mudflats.

Peterson notes that, “all of my panfish rods are spooled with 2 lb. test Seaguar IceX™. One of the first things you’ll notice about IceX™ is its extremely low memory — even in freezing temperatures — which means that it comes off the reel nice and straight, without that ‘slinky effect’ that can happen with stiff, coiled line. The abrasion resistance of 100% fluorocarbon IceX™ means that I won’t have to worry about breaking off a giant bluegill as he spirals around beneath the ice and rubs my line against the edge of the hole. And of course, remember that fluorocarbon is a very low-stretch line which enhances its sensitivity, so you’ll feel more bites and catch more fish.”

Tap into the first ice panfish frenzy by identifying a good weedline spot, like a point or an inside turn, and focus your efforts on fish that collect there throughout the day. Bluegills frequently prefer a bait presented at or slightly above their depth, but crappies respond best to baits presented well above them.



Few species attract more first ice attention than walleyes. These toothy predators spend much of the fall along shorelines, pursuing baitfish over weeds and rocks, and many of those fish linger near shallow structure and adjacent flats when ice first covers the lake. First ice is a great time to target those fish, before they slide toward deeper structure and become less aggressive as winter progresses.

Peterson reveals that, “when I gear up for walleyes, I spool my reels with 10 lb. test Seaguar Smackdown™ – a super smooth eight-strand braided line – and add a leader of 6 or 8 lb. test IceX™. I use a small barrel swivel to join the two lines,

which helps to eliminate line twist that might be created with aggressive jigging lures. A stealthy presentation is key for first ice walleyes, and the near invisibility of IceX™ below the surface, coupled with its enhanced abrasion resistance, give me the confidence to go after the biggest first ice predators under the toughest conditions.”

The first ice feeding frenzy for both walleyes and panfish is here! As fishable ice continues to expand its reach, leverage these tips from Troy Peterson, Mr. Bluegill, to hoist more trophies topside this winter. Indeed, early ice fishing, like the Seaguar lines and leaders used to enjoy it, is **Always the Best!**

**Media Contact:** Chuck Reynolds, Omnivore Agency, phone: 414-224-5022, email: [chuck@omnivoreagency.com](mailto:chuck@omnivoreagency.com).

## HOW Supporting Member News

### The 20IN20 Best of Indiana People's Choice Campaign Lake Wawasee Voted Best Lake of Indiana

**Indianapolis, IN:** (Nov. 6, 2020) – After counting almost 30,000 votes, Visit Indiana announced today the winners for The 20IN20 Best of Indiana people's choice campaign. The winners are: **Donut Shops:** Rise'n Roll Bakery & Deli, **Lakes:** Lake Wawasee, **Unique Sleeps:** French Lick Resort. 2020 has been the year to really explore Indiana. Visitors could start by doing 20 things from our 20 lists of Indiana's most unique destinations. We revealed new lists throughout the year, taking you all over the state to see and enjoy new spots or old favorites.

See the lists at: <https://visitindiana.com/2020/>

"It may be hard to narrow your choice in these categories, but what's great about the Best of Indiana is you get to learn about other voters' favorite locations and ones you might want to visit as well," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch. We don't have room here to include all of the winners, so we have concentrated on the **LAKES** category:

#### Lakes

Voters named **Lake Wawasee** in Kosciusko County as the best lake in Indiana. It is the largest natural lake within Indiana's borders. You can experience Lake Wawasee on the SS Lillypad, a 110-passenger dinner boat, or rent a boat for the day on the lake. Fishing, waterskiing and boating are very popular here.

Number two on the best lake list is Indiana's **Lake Michigan shoreline**. The beaches, trails and sand dunes of this area are part of the Indiana Dunes National Park and Indiana Dunes State Park, and they are beautiful. You will find marinas to launch your boat in Michigan City and Hammond. Don't have a boat? No problem! There are numerous charter boats available to take your group on fishing and boating excursions.

Indiana's second-largest natural lake, **Lake Maxinkuckee**, gets the third spot on the 'Best Lake' list. Located in the charming small town of Culver, Lake Maxinkuckee or "Lake Max," delights visitors with every kind of water activity.

"It's wonderful to see that voters are taking notice of places that are unique to Indiana," said Misty Weisensteiner, director of Visit Indiana. "If you haven't visited any of these local spots that made the list, I encourage everyone to explore a new one."

Visit Indiana has a terrific resource to help you plan some of your winter activities, too. Be sure to check out <https://visitindiana.com/best-of-indiana/winter>. It features light displays, outdoor recreation and holiday traditions. From visiting the place where "Santa's elves" answer all his letters in Santa Claus, Indiana, to sledding, tubing or skiing across the state, there's something for everyone. Start planning today and look for our grand prize giveaway to Shipshewana on [VisitIndiana.com/winter](https://VisitIndiana.com/winter).

#### Media Contact:

Amy Howell  
Director of Communications & Media Relations  
Phone: 317-232-8897  
Email: [AmHowell@visitindiana.com](mailto:AmHowell@visitindiana.com)



# HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Aquateko International - [www.aquateko.com](http://www.aquateko.com)  
B'n'M Pole Company - [www.bnmpoles.com](http://www.bnmpoles.com)  
Bass Pro Shops - [www.basspro.com](http://www.basspro.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)  
Brella Rainwear - [www.brellabrella.com](http://www.brellabrella.com)  
Buck Knives - [www.buckknives.com](http://www.buckknives.com)  
Bucket Grip - [www.bucketgrip.com](http://www.bucketgrip.com)  
Celox Medical - [www.stopbleedingkits.org](http://www.stopbleedingkits.org)  
Church Tackle Company - [www.churchtackle.com](http://www.churchtackle.com)  
Cocoons Eyewear - [www.cocoonseyewear.com](http://www.cocoonseyewear.com)  
Costa Sunglasses - [www.costadelmar.com](http://www.costadelmar.com)  
Daisy Outdoor Products - [www.daisy.com](http://www.daisy.com)  
Danner Boots - [www.danner.com](http://www.danner.com)  
Dardevle by Eppinger - [www.dardevle.com](http://www.dardevle.com)  
DJ Illinois River Valley Calls - [www.djcalls.com](http://www.djcalls.com)  
Ducks Unlimited - [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org)  
Egret Baits - [www.egretbaits.com](http://www.egretbaits.com)  
Environ-Metal, Inc. - [www.hevishot.com](http://www.hevishot.com)  
Falcon Guides - [www.falcon.com](http://www.falcon.com)  
Finn Tackle Company - [www.finnspoons.com](http://www.finnspoons.com)  
Fish Monkey Gloves - [www.fishmonkeygloves.com](http://www.fishmonkeygloves.com)  
Flying Fisherman - [www.flyingfisherman.com](http://www.flyingfisherman.com)  
G.Loomis - [www.gloomis.com](http://www.gloomis.com)  
Glacier Glove - [www.glacierglove.com](http://www.glacierglove.com)  
Grizzly Fishing - [www.grizzlyfishing.com](http://www.grizzlyfishing.com)  
Gun Protect - [www.mygunprotect.com](http://www.mygunprotect.com)  
Hawke Sport Optics - [www.hawkeoptics.com](http://www.hawkeoptics.com)  
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - [www.henryUSA.com](http://www.henryUSA.com)  
HHA Sports - [www.HHAsports.com](http://www.HHAsports.com)  
Hoosier Trapper Supply - [www.hoosiertrappersupply.com](http://www.hoosiertrappersupply.com)  
Howard Leight Shooting Sports - [www.howardleight.com](http://www.howardleight.com)  
HT Enterprises - [www.htent.com](http://www.htent.com)  
Indiana Dunes Tourism - [www.indianadunes.com](http://www.indianadunes.com)  
Indiana Office of Tourism Development - [www.visitindiana.com](http://www.visitindiana.com)  
Jackall Lures - [www.jackall-lures.com](http://www.jackall-lures.com)  
LaCrosse Footwear - [www.lacrossefootwear.com](http://www.lacrossefootwear.com)  
Lawrence County Tourism - [www.limestonecountry.com](http://www.limestonecountry.com)  
LensPen - [www.lenspen.com](http://www.lenspen.com)  
Lodge Manufacturing - [www.lodgemfg.com](http://www.lodgemfg.com)  
Mathews Archery - [www.mathewsinc.com](http://www.mathewsinc.com)  
Mossy Oak - [www.mossyoak.com](http://www.mossyoak.com)  
National Shooting Sports Foundation - [www.nssf.org](http://www.nssf.org)  
National Wild Turkey Federation - [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org)  
Norsemen Outdoors - [www.norsemenoutdoors.com](http://www.norsemenoutdoors.com)  
Nosler, Inc. - [www.nosler.com](http://www.nosler.com)  
Nothead Tackle - [www.notheadtackle.com](http://www.notheadtackle.com)  
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - [www.mossberg.com](http://www.mossberg.com)  
Off Shore Tackle - [www.offshoretackle.com](http://www.offshoretackle.com)  
Otis Technology - [www.otistec.com](http://www.otistec.com)  
Outdoor Sportsman Group - [www.outdoorsg.com](http://www.outdoorsg.com)  
PowerPro Lines - [www.powerpro.com](http://www.powerpro.com)  
Princeton University Press - [www.press.princeton.edu](http://www.press.princeton.edu)  
Pro-Cure Bait Scents - [www.pro-cure.com](http://www.pro-cure.com)  
Quaker Boy Game Calls - [www.quakerboygamecalls.com](http://www.quakerboygamecalls.com)  
RAM Trucks - [www.ramtrucks.com](http://www.ramtrucks.com)  
Reef Runner Lures - [www.reefrunner.com](http://www.reefrunner.com)  
Renfro Productions - [www.renfroproductions.com](http://www.renfroproductions.com)  
RIO Products - [www.rioproducts.com](http://www.rioproducts.com)  
Roeslein Alternative Energy - [www.roeslein.com](http://www.roeslein.com)  
Seaguar Fishing Lines - [www.seaguar.com](http://www.seaguar.com)  
Shimano American Corp. - [www.shimano.com](http://www.shimano.com)  
Sierra Bullets - [www.sierrabullets.com](http://www.sierrabullets.com)  
Snag Proof Lures - [www.snagproof.com](http://www.snagproof.com)  
South Shore CVA - [www.southshorecva.com](http://www.southshorecva.com)  
Sporting Classics - [www.sportingclassics.com](http://www.sportingclassics.com)  
Sportsman Magazine - [www.sportsman-mag.com](http://www.sportsman-mag.com)  
St. Croix Rods - [www.stcroixrods.com](http://www.stcroixrods.com)  
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - [www.ruger.com](http://www.ruger.com)  
Swab-Its - [www.swab-its.com](http://www.swab-its.com)  
Sweet Owen CVB - [www.sweetowencvb.org](http://www.sweetowencvb.org)  
Tales End Tackle - [www.talesendtackle.com](http://www.talesendtackle.com)  
Target Communications Outdoor Books - [www.targetcommbooks.com](http://www.targetcommbooks.com)  
Toyota Motor Sales - [www.toyotanewsroom.com](http://www.toyotanewsroom.com)  
Traditions Media - [www.traditionsmedia.com](http://www.traditionsmedia.com)  
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - [www.ttiblakemore.com](http://www.ttiblakemore.com)  
Van Vuuren African Safaris - [www.vvasafaris.com](http://www.vvasafaris.com)  
Vexilar, Inc. - [www.vexilar.com](http://www.vexilar.com)  
Whitetails Unlimited - [www.whitetailsunlimited.com](http://www.whitetailsunlimited.com)  
Widener's Reloading & Shooting Supply - [www.wideners.com](http://www.wideners.com)  
Winchester Ammunition - [www.winchester.com](http://www.winchester.com)  
W.R. Case - [www.wrcase.com](http://www.wrcase.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:

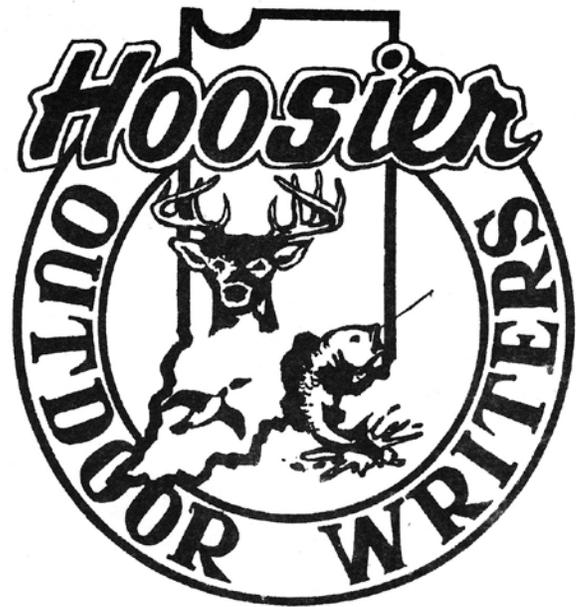
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor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

**SHOT Show 2021:** Cancelled due to Covid-19  
(<http://shotshow.org>)  
Las Vegas, NV

**Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show:** Cancelled due to Covid-19  
([www.IndySportShow.com](http://www.IndySportShow.com))  
Indianapolis, IN

**Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo:** Cancelled due to Covid-19  
([www.IndySportShow.com](http://www.IndySportShow.com))  
Indianapolis, IN

**HOW 2021 Annual Conference:** April 9-11, 2021  
([www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org](http://www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org))  
Turkey Run Inn, Turkey Run State Park  
Parke County, IN

**POMA 2021 Annual Conference:** June 15-17, 2021  
([www.professionalooutdoormedia.org](http://www.professionalooutdoormedia.org))  
Franklin, TN

**OWAA 2021 Annual Conference:** July 9-12, 2021  
([www.owaa.org](http://www.owaa.org))  
Northern VT

**SEOPA 2021 Annual Conference:** October 6-9, 2021  
([www.seopa.org](http://www.seopa.org))  
Southern WV

**SHOT Show 2022:** January 18-21, 2022  
(<http://shotshow.org>)  
Las Vegas, NV

## **NOTE:**

Because of Covid-19, all events are tentative. Please check with the websites and/or organizations listed as the dates get closer to make sure each event is still taking place.

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*.