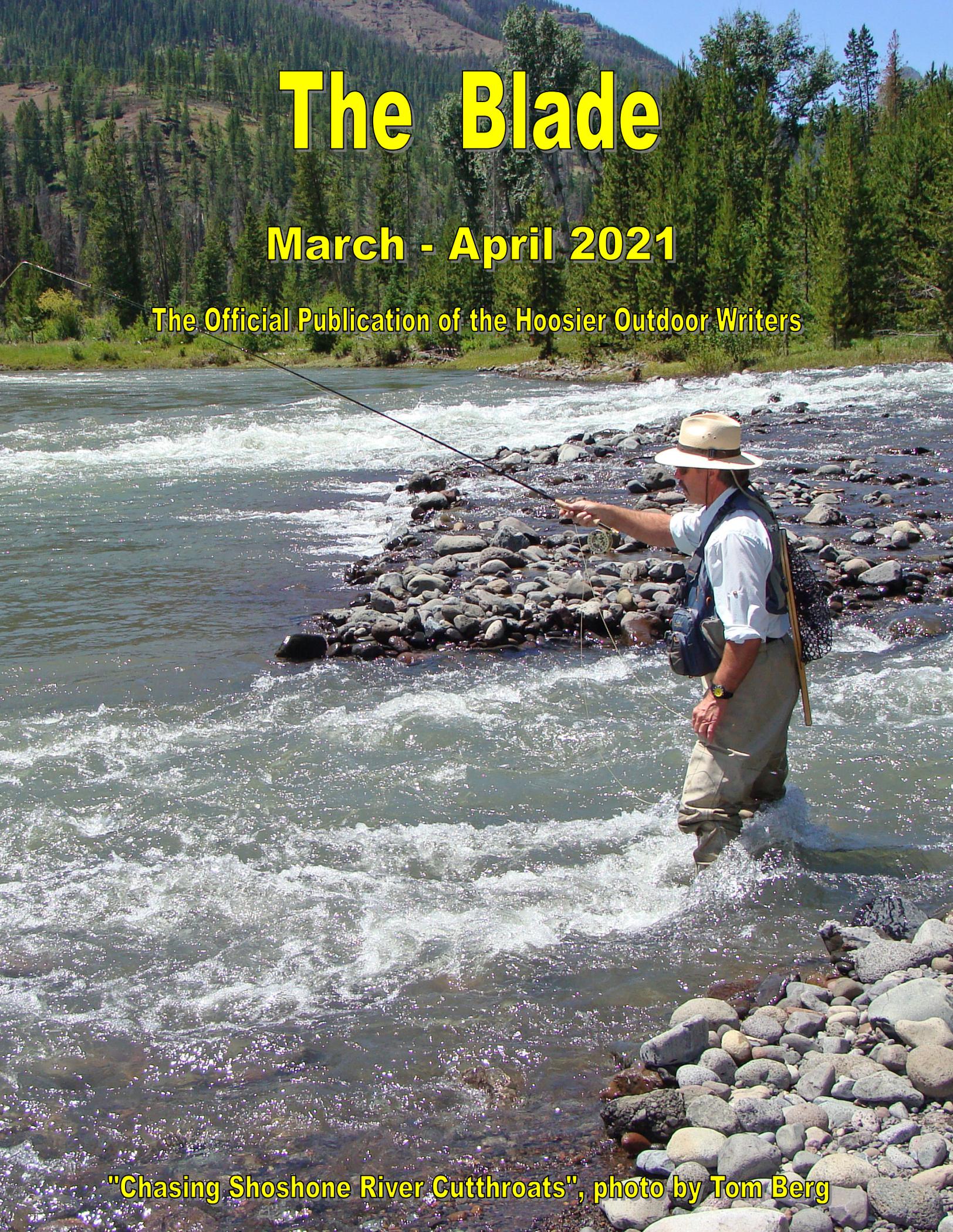


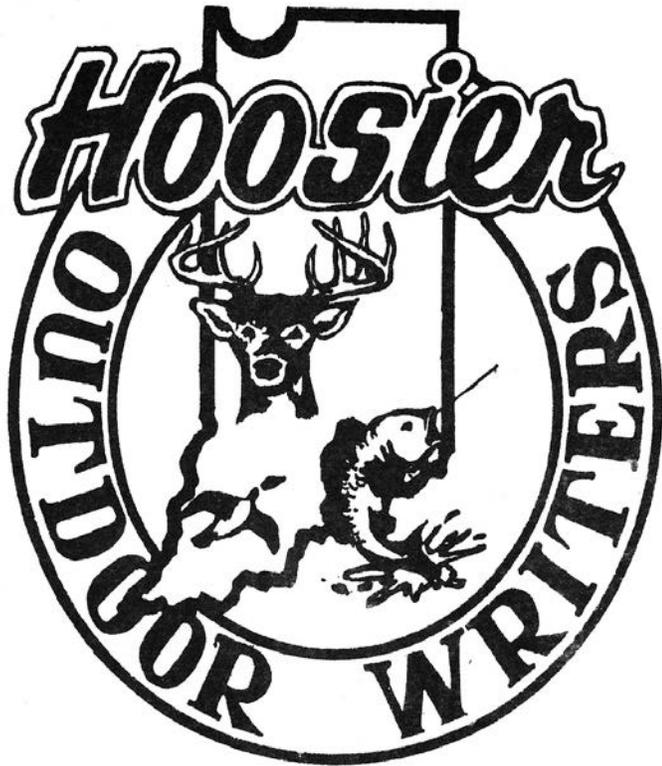
The Blade

March - April 2021

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Chasing Shoshone River Cutthroats", photo by Tom Berg



Hoosier Outdoor Writers

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers was formed in 1969 and has brought together many diverse groups and individuals with shared interests. The Hoosier Outdoor Writers, known among its members as HOW, is a group of dedicated media professionals who are keenly interested in the wise use of natural resources in the Hoosier State.

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Executive Council

Board Chairman

Mike Schoonveld
299N 100E
Morocco, IN 47963
mike@bronature.com

President

Kenny Bayless
9772 E. Stewart Ave.
Terre Haute, IN 47805
kwbayless@aol.com

Vice President

Phil Seng
317 E. Jefferson Blvd.
Mishawaka, IN 46545
phil@djcase.com

Executive Director

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

Advisor

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

Newsletter Editor

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

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On the cover: Shoshone River fishing guide Tim Wade drifts a fly along a current edge where a small feeder creek enters the Shoshone River outside of Cody, Wyoming. The target was hard-fighting Yellowstone cutthroat trout, and these fish were cooperative as well as beautiful. Photo by Tom Berg.

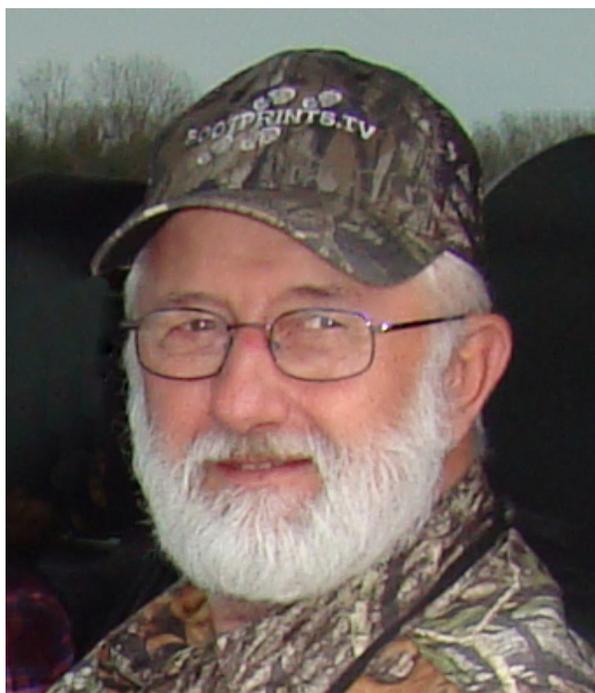
President's Message

by Kenny Bayless (*The Redneck Quaker*)

Maple Syrup Time

As I took our four Labradors for a walk around the hay field, I noticed the neighbors had a fire with a lot of steam coming out of the large pan above it. Then, I spotted the buckets hanging on the silver maple trees.

Pat and Laura Pounds are good-hearted country folk that enjoy simple things in life, like making maple syrup and tending to all of their animals. They have quite a variety of animals, too: sheep, horses, chickens, guinea fowl and dogs. They rescued a small female terrier, Bonnie, who rides on Pat's shoulder in the truck. If you look up the definition of 'spoiled', her picture would be next to it.



In my younger days, I worked at Presslor's Maple Syrup camp in Parke County for minimum wage (\$1 per hour). We carried 5-gallon buckets to collect the sugar water.

The best time of year to collect is early spring when the sap freezes in the base of the tree and thaws out in the late afternoon to make its way up the trunk of the tree. It is March 7th as I write this and Pat said it would be their last cooking session for the year.

Wait a minute! Pat, Laura and I looked into the sky at the same time to spot what was making such a racket. It was flocks of Sandhill cranes making their way north in a much disorganized flying pattern, going in circles and in no particular formation.

Pat had cut some locust posts about 45 years ago and didn't end up using them. That's what he's using for firewood under the maple syrup and it's burning good and hot.



Laura said the mild weather doesn't make a good year for collecting sugar water. The sugar of silver maples is the best by providing 40 to 1 sugar content. She filters the sugar water before she warms it up on the kitchen stove. When she dumps it into the boiling tank it doesn't lose its boil. The boiling tank that sits over the fire is about three inches deep with sugar water. They're cooking six to seven gallons all the time and it takes seven gallons to make about a pint of syrup.

They are very generous; I walked away with a mason jar filled with the hard-earned treat. It's a nice exchange from the honey we send their way. How can you get more country than that?

There go more cranes overhead, voicing their labor. I told my son in the past to "Straighten up and fly right". The cranes should try it.

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 22.

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
Kenny Bayless	2020

The Annual HOW Raffle

The 2021 HOW Firearms Raffle Another Great Success

Although the 2021 HOW Conference was canceled due to Covid-19, we were still able to hold the annual HOW Raffle – at least in some small way. This year we held a Firearms Raffle, thanks to the generosity of our great Supporting Members: **Henry Repeating Arms Company**; **Sturm, Ruger & Company**; and **O.F. Mossberg & Sons**. We would like to give a few sincere words of thanks to these companies – thank you very much!

Since we could not all be present in person for the raffle drawing, we decided to hold the drawing “live” for all raffle participants via a ZOOM meeting (you didn’t have to be present to win). Some HOW members joined the meeting via their computers or laptops and other used their smartphones. That’s not to say there were no technical difficulties! A few of us had trouble getting the video portion to work, and a few others had difficulty getting the audio portion to work. Someone said “Isn’t there a 4-year-old in the house to help you get it working?!” In the end, everyone was able to get their audio AND video working! We had a good time seeing each other (virtually) and talking for a while, too.

The drawing went off without a hitch and we drew three winning tickets. Here are the winners:

Henry .410 shotgun:

Ticket #100169

Winner: **Rick Bramwell**



Ruger .308 rifle:

Ticket #100111

Winner: **Mike Schoonveld**



Mossberg 20GA shotgun:

Ticket #100118

Winner: **Bob Sawtelle**



Thank you again to everyone who participated in the HOW Raffle and helped support HOW. This raffle helped offset some of the income that we missed by having to cancel the HOW Conference this spring, so thank you very much!



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 HOW 2021 Awards-In-Craft Contests

The results are in! The winners of the 2021 Awards-In-Craft (AIC) contests are usually announced at the annual HOW conference, but since the conference was canceled this year due to Covid-19 we are making the announcement in this issue of *The Blade*.

This year we had a large number of entries. As usual, the writing portion of the contest drew the most interest, as HOW members submitted a total of 108 entries from 19 different HOW members. This was a lot more writing contest entries when compared to 2020 when we only had 74 entries, and that's great. Maybe people had more time to get their entries ready since quite a few people were working from home during the pandemic! Let's keep up the momentum and have even more entries next year! You can't win if you don't play, and there is no cost to participate. The photography contest included 40 entries from nine HOW members, which is very similar to last year. The Broadcast contest featured seven entries from three different HOW members, and this year we had entries in all three broadcast categories. The Best Book contest is only held once every seven or eight years, and this year we had a total of nine entries from five different HOW members.

One thing to keep in mind is that this year we had a fairly large number of submissions that did not comply with the rules. Where time allowed before the contest deadline, the entrant was contacted and given an opportunity to correct the submission. Most people corrected their mistakes. Unfortunately, there were a few last minute submissions that resulted in disqualification because there was no time for corrections prior to the deadline. In the future, please read the rules before submitting an entry. Failure to do so results in a lot of extra work for the volunteer contest coordinator and risks disqualification.

Besides that, the AIC judges did a great job and most of the competitions were extremely close. In the Writing Contest, only one or two points often separated a first place entry from a second place entry, etc. Many articles landed in 4th place by a mere point or two, also. Considering the fact that each article can receive up to 200 points (100 from each of two judges), those were some close races! We were also happy to see that the AIC awards were spread out among the entrants again this year, with a total of 17 different winners. Make sure you get in on the fun next year!

Once again this year the Awards-In-Craft contests were sponsored by **Toyota**, so the winners will be awarded checks along with certificates to commemorate their achievements. "It is our honor to continue to support HOW's annual AIC Awards," said Curt McAllister, Midwest Public Relations Manager and Outdoor Communications Manager at **Toyota Motor North America**. "The ongoing pandemic has been extremely tough on our country, but one silver lining is that many Americans have taken the opportunity to connect, or reconnect, with the great outdoors. This renewed interest in our environment can be sparked and fostered through great outdoor journalism and communications, as evidenced by HOW's awards program."



We would like to thank Toyota for their generous sponsorship again in 2021. HOW members are encouraged to log on to the Toyota website (www.toyotaneewsroom.com) to find out more about their products and recent news releases.

A special thank-you also goes to our contest coordinators who donated their time and energy to secure judges and get each of the entries reviewed and scored in time for this issue of *The Blade*. Dealing with a large number of submissions which are typically sent right before the deadline always makes coordinating the entries/judges difficult, but the electronic entries really helped. The 2021 Awards-In-Craft coordinators were: Bill Keaton (Writing), John Martino (Photography) and Tom Berg (Broadcast and Books)

A complete list of the winners (along with the number of entries for each contest) is printed on the following pages. Please take a look and congratulate your fellow HOW members on their successes.

WRITING CONTEST (108 entries from 19 different HOW members)

Hunting/Trapping (Less Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: John Martino, "Stevens, Chance for Winning Team"
- 2nd: Tom Berg, "It's Time for Pheasant Hunting" -- TIE --
- 2nd: Richard Hines, "Take Home an Exotic for Supper" -- TIE --
- 3rd: Richard Hines, "Chasing Late Season Pheasants"

Hunting/Trapping (More Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: Jack Spaulding, "The Thanksgiving Duck"
- 2nd: Scott Cummings, "Rednecks, Roosters, Kickers and Cake" -- TIE --
- 2nd: Mike Schoonveld, "Raccoon Pipeline" -- TIE --
- 3rd: John Martino, "Idaho's Backcountry Continues to Mesmerize"

Fishing (Less Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: Tom Berg, "Feeder Creeks for Early Season Bass"
- 2nd: Tom Berg, "Trolling for Reservoir Catfish"
- 3rd: Mike Schoonveld, "Dwindling Days of Summer Mean Smallmouth"

Fishing (More Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: Mike Schoonveld, "Discovering Lures with Rattles"
- 2nd: Mike Schoonveld, "Strike Up the Glow"
- 3rd: Bill Takacs, "Panfishing Locations and Tactics After Ice-Out"

Conservation (Less Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: Jack Spaulding, "The American White Pelican"
- 2nd: Rich Creason, "Bug Eating Machine"
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "Hoosier Sportsmen Against Poachers"

Conservation (More Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: Richard Hines, "Creating Early Successional Growth"
- 2nd: Richard Hines, "Deal of the Century"
- 3rd: Cindy Stites, "Step Up and Volunteer for Conservation"

General Outdoors (Less Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: Phil Bloom, "Resonant Over Decades"
- 2nd: John Martino, "Memories of 1968 Remain Vivid" -- TIE --
- 2nd: Richard Hines, "Prescribed Fire - What the Bees Need" -- TIE --
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "Annual HOW Fun Shoot Goes Lead-Free"

General Outdoors (More Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: Rich Creason, "When Indiana was Under Water" -- TIE --
- 1st: Phil Bloom, "Flying Jewels Kick Butt When Needed" -- TIE --
- 2nd: Alan Garbers, "The Guns of the Wild Bunch"
- 3rd: Alan Garbers, "The Heirloom Revolvers of Standard Manufacturing"



PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST (40 entries from 9 different HOW members)

Hunting/Trapping

- 1st: Scott Cummings, "Georgia's Red Hills Reward"
- 2nd: John Martino, "Shawn and Chance"
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "A Great Day Afield"

Fishing

- 1st: John Maxwell, "Fishing Hindostan Falls of the White River"
- 2nd: Richard Hines, "A Coosa on the Sipse River"
- 3rd: John Martino, "Pulling Gills"

Outdoor Scenic

- 1st: Tom Berg, "Whitetail Fawn on the Alert"
- 2nd: Tom Berg, "Black-Crowned Night Heron at the Marsh"
- 3rd: John Martino, "Idaho 2020 Scenic"

Outdoor Recreation

- 1st: Alan Garbers, "Single Action Revolver"
- 2nd: Marilyn Culler, "We Made It!"
- 3rd: Marilyn Culler, "Afternoon Delight"



BROADCAST CONTEST (7 entries from 3 HOW members)

Best TV Broadcast

- 1st: Troy McCormick, "American Bison: Bootprints.TV Episode 18"
- 2nd: Troy McCormick, "Montana Pike: Bootprints.TV Episode 17"
- 3rd: Jason Houser, "Maine Bear Trapping: Bone Wild TV, Episode 7"

Best Radio Broadcast

- 1st: Brandon Butler, "The Great Deer Camp Disaster of 2020"
- 2nd: Brandon Butler, "Former Missouri State Park Director Bill Bryan"
- 3rd: -- No Entry --

Best Video

- 1st: Troy McCormick, "High Adventure Ranch"
- 2nd: -- No Entry --
- 3rd: -- No Entry --

BOOK CONTEST (9 entries from 5 HOW members)

Best Book

- 1st: Alan Garbers, "From Tree to Table – How to Make Your Own Rustic Log Furniture"
- 2nd: Mike Lunsford, "Field Notes and Other Stories"
- 3rd: Jack Spaulding, "The Coon Hunter and the Kid"

NOTE: See the following four pages for images of the winning photos in this year's Photography Contest.

WINNING IMAGES FROM THIS YEAR'S PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

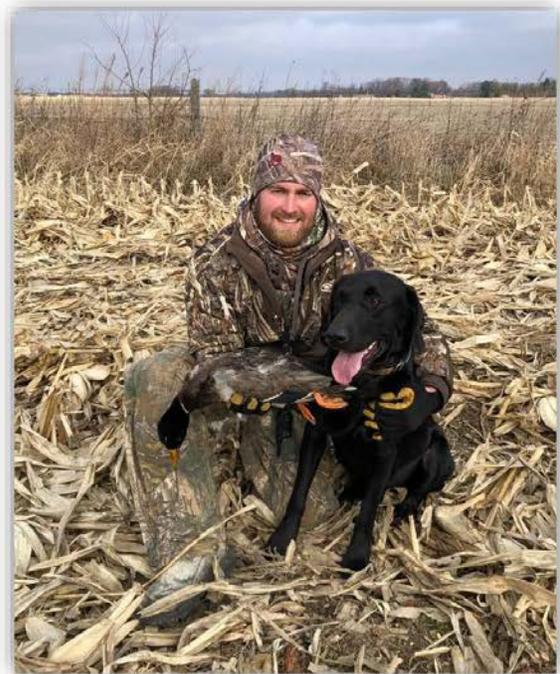
Hunting /Trapping



"Georgia's Red Hills Reward"

First Place - Scott Cummings

Second Place - John Martino



"Shawn and Chance"



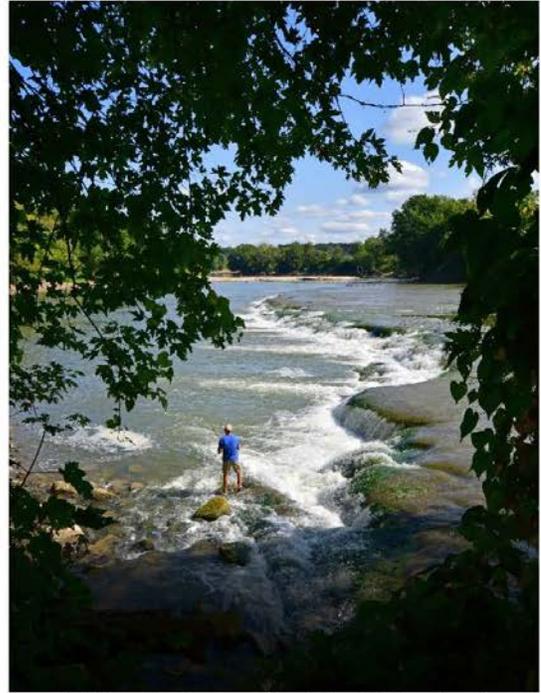
"A Great Day Afield"

Third Place - Tom Berg

WINNING IMAGES FROM THIS YEAR'S PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Fishing

First Place - John Maxwell



"Fishing Hindostan Falls of the White River"



"A Coosa on the Sipse River"

Second Place - Richard Hines



"Pulling Gills"

Third Place - John Martino

WINNING IMAGES FROM THIS YEAR'S PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Outdoor Scenic

First Place – Tom Berg



"Whitetail Fawn on the Alert"



"Black-Crowned Night Heron at the Marsh"

Second Place – Tom Berg



"Idaho 2020 scenic"

Third Place – John Martino

WINNING IMAGES FROM THIS YEAR'S PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Outdoor Recreation

First Place – Alan Garbers



"Single Action Revolver"



"We Made It!"

Second Place - Marilyn Culler



Third Place - Marilyn Culler

"Afternoon Delight"



The TIP – Hoosier Outdoor Writers Turn in a Poacher/Polluter Writing Contest



The Indiana Turn in a Poacher (TIP) Citizen's Advisory Board once again sponsored a writing contest to encourage HOW members to promote the TIP mission, the TIP hotline and support of the TIP Advisory Board. Participation was disappointing this year (much fewer entries than last year), but we still received some excellent TIP articles.

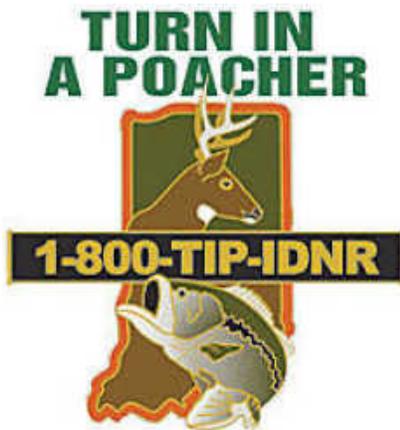
A complete list of the winners is printed below. This year the prizes are \$300 for first place; \$200 for second place; \$100 for third place. Please take a look and congratulate your fellow HOW members on their successes.

Here is the list of the 2021 TIP Contest award winners:

First Place: Tom Berg, for his article:
“TIP Program: Turn in a Poacher or Polluter”
Published in *Adventure Sports Outdoors*, December 2020

Second Place: Brandon Butler, for his article:
“Poachers Ruin Deer Camp Experience”
Published in newspapers in Columbus, Seymour, Spencer, Jasper (Indiana) and *Sportsman Magazine*, November 2020

Third Place: Phil Cox, for his article:
“Whooping Crane Conservation in Indiana”
Published in *The Clintonian*, 11-7-20, and
IN Master Naturalist Newsletter, Winter 2021



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. 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>.

A special thank-you also goes to our TIP contest coordinator, Troy McCormick, and our TIP liaison, Phil Seng. Troy and Phil donated their time and energy to gather the entries, forward them on to the TIP Board, and perform all of the coordination between HOW and the TIP Board for this contest.

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



For immediate release: March 22, 2021

Whitefish state record broken again

Phil Duracz of Chesterton broke the state record for whitefish while fishing on Lake Michigan near Portage on March 6. Duracz's catch weighed 9.34 pounds, besting the previous record from 2019 by 1.65 pounds.

Lake whitefish state records are the most frequently broken in Indiana in the past decade. This is the eighth time the record has fallen since 2012.

Prized as excellent table fare, whitefish are becoming more sought after by Indiana's Lake Michigan anglers. They can be caught near shore from November to April, typically when water temperatures are below 50 degrees.

"Whitefish are usually caught by pier anglers using simple techniques, such as bottom fishing with a slip sinker rig with a short leader, small hook, and single salmon egg or piece of night crawler," said Ben Dickinson, Lake Michigan biologist with the Indiana DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife. "As the ecosystem changes due to invasive species, whitefish are switching from eating mostly invertebrates to incorporating more small baitfish such as invasive round gobies. We're also seeing more boat anglers targeting them successfully using jiggging spoons or small swimbaits worked slowly on the bottom."



Chesterton angler Phil Duracz poses with the new state record lake whitefish that he caught from Lake Michigan. Photo courtesy of Indiana DNR.

Find out more about Indiana's state record fish program by going online to: wildlife.IN.gov/3588.htm. Lake Michigan fishing information is available at wildlife.IN.gov/3625.htm.

Media contact: Ben Dickinson, Lake Michigan fisheries biologist, DNR Fish & Wildlife, phone: 219-874-6824, email: bdickinson@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 Mike Lunsford:

HOW Board member Mike Lunsford is often out-and-about with his camera, and birds are his usual quarry. Although he takes many photographs of his feathered friends among the trees on his own property, he also makes trips to other birding hotspots to find interesting birds. "I drove over to Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area near Linton in late March," he recalled. "An **American White Pelican** (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) flew right over my head."

"These birds have been sighted much more commonly in Indiana in recent years," Lunsford continued, "but they will spend much of their summer in the far northern plains in Canada before migrating back south by late July. There is some evidence that pelicans actually work together to catch fish, which is pretty interesting. They also have wingspans wider than bald eagles. My wife and daughter went with me for a day of bird watching at Goose Pond and the pelicans were the highlight of a long day."



An interesting fact about pelicans is they can overheat on hot, calm days when the sun is beating down on them. To cool off, they flutter their bill pouches since the thin skin of the pouch contains lots of blood vessels which lets heat escape to the surrounding air. In the nest, the unborn chicks can even squawk inside the egg the show their discomfort if conditions get too hot!



Lunsford found another cool bird a little closer to home in Parke County in April. "The photo at left shows a tiny **Golden-Crowned Kinglet** (*Regulus satrapa*) as it pauses in the upper branches of a tree near Big Raccoon Creek," he said. "These small, quiet birds are tougher than they look, often enduring winters far north of Indiana at -40 degrees. When little else makes itself available to me, I find these birds in the same place on my walks year after year; I see ruby-crowned kinglets in the same area."

Golden-crowned kinglets are beautiful little birds. The golden-yellow crown on top of their head is often just a thin gold stripe (you can barely see it in this photo), but it can also have a bright orange cast to it, too. They can also raise their crown feathers depending on their mood, and when they do it looks simply delightful.

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? Send the photo in!

HOW members are encouraged to send their interesting bird photos to newsletter editor and bird enthusiast Tom Berg (email: 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.

Discover the Indiana Birding Trail

by Tom Berg



More and more Hoosiers are discovering birding, especially since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. Getting outside to do some hiking and bird watching is a great way to cure cabin fever and enjoy some fresh air at the same time. And don't forget about the birds! The spring migration features dozens upon dozens of species, from tiny ruby-throated hummingbirds and Nashville warblers to the surprisingly large American white pelican (see previous page). In fact, Indiana is located right in the middle of one of the prime migratory zones for a huge number of bird species.

Late-April and early May is prime time for migrating birds in Indiana, too, especially in the northern parts of the state. Grab your camera and a pair of binoculars and get in on the action. It is amazing how much you can learn about birds in a short amount of time, too.

Looking for a place to go and observe migrating birds? Look no further than the Indiana Birding Trail (www.indianabirdingtrail.com). The Indiana Birding Trail highlights great places throughout the state to visit and see a variety of interesting birds. In fact, there have been six new sites added to the trail for 2021. See below.

Here is a list of the newest birding sites that have been added to the Indiana Birding Trail:

- ★ Fall Creek Trail at Geist Dam (Central)
- ★ Flora Richardson Preserve (NW)
- ★ Hovey Lake Fish & Wildlife Area (SW)
- ★ Raccoon State Recreation Area (Central)
- ★ Reynolds Creek Game Bird Habitat (NW)
- ★ Wabashiki Fish & Wildlife Area (Central)

Birders will be happy to know there are now 66 locations across the state that make up the Indiana Birding Trail. The trail showcases some of the best birding destinations in the Hoosier state, and this year everyone can participate in the [#21in21](https://www.indianaaudubon.org/21in21) Challenge! Visit Indiana Birding Trail sites this year to win prizes and explore some cool locations. Plus, there'll be special field trips at these new locations, too. Find more information at www.indianaaudubon.org/21in21



INDIANA BIRDING TRAIL

Six new birding destinations have joined the previous 60 locations as part of the Indiana Birding Trail, comprising the state's best bird watching destinations!

2021 NEW SITES

- FALL CREEK TRAIL AT GEIST DAM (CENTRAL)
- FLORA RICHARDSON PRESERVE (NW)
- HOVEY LAKE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (SW)
- RACCOON STATE RECREATION AREA (CENTRAL)
- REYNOLDS CREEK GAME BIRD HABITAT (NW)
- WABASHIKI FISH & WILDLIFE AREA (CENTRAL)

TAKE THE #21IN21 CHALLENGE!

Adventure awaits at WWW.INDIANABIRDINGTRAIL.COM

To find your adventure and take the #21in21 challenge, visit WWW.INDIANAUDUBON.ORG/21IN21

INDIANA AUDUBON

Changing the Native Fish Conservation Narrative

by Matthew L. Miller

Note: This story first appeared in Outdoors Unlimited, the membership journal of the Outdoor Writers Association of America.

“Manage by science, not by emotion.” How often have I read these words, or a variation of them, in the outdoor press? It’s like one of the outdoor writer’s sacred tenets. The underlying premise is that state wildlife agencies, and the hunters and anglers who support them, base their wildlife management on facts, while others just want to push ballot box initiatives.

But are hunting and fishing regulations always based on the best-available science? Hardly. And as outdoor writers, we need to stop recycling clichés and actually cover the science. Even when it’s not convenient to our narratives.

Let’s take a look at freshwater fisheries management. There are some “game” species – trout, bass, walleye – that are indeed extensively studied and intensively managed. But there are many freshwater species that are almost never studied. Often, the regulations around fishing for them are not based on research. They’re based on outdated notions and because “that’s what we’ve always done.”

So-called “rough fish” like suckers, gar and bowfin are considered “rough fish” and “non-

game species”. These are not scientific classifications. They’re human notions based on what’s good and bad. Many state agencies allow these species to be killed without limit and without restriction on method. There is a growing body of research showing that this lack of management is completely unjustified.

The bigmouth buffalo is a native sucker species found in the Midwest that bears a superficial resemblance to carp. Many anglers and bowfishers believe they are carp, and shoot them relentlessly (and legally). On a recent episode of the fishing show *Das Boat*, buffalo biologist Alec Lackmann says “Calling a buffalo a carp is like calling a human a lemur,” an implied reference to the evolutionary distance between the two groups. But there’s more than mistaken identity at stake.

Recent research has shown these buffalo can live more than 100 years. They also breed intermittently rather than annually. “These fish are playing the long game,” says fisheries biologist Jason D. Schooley. “They spawn multiple times in their life. If they make one or several effective spawns, they have succeeded. But that means if you target mature females, you are having a disproportionate impact.”

Female buffalo are larger, so they are often the ones that are shot by bowfishers. Bowfishing has been a growing sport, so unregulated harvest can have devastating impacts on a slow-growing, long-lived species.



Kris Maxson of the Illinois River Biological Survey with a native bigmouth buffalo. Photo by Matthew L. Miller.

(continued next page)

Schooley recently coauthored a comprehensive study looking at bowfishing management across the United States. The short summary is this: there is no bowfishing management across the United States. That management philosophy is not based on science. It's based on what's always been done. But bowfishing is a growing sport, and (contrary to how it is often portrayed) is often targeting native species, not just carp.

Schooley sees this paper as a call for change, for management agencies to look specifically at how native fish species are currently being managed – or not managed. There are species – including alligator gar, bigmouth buffalo and paddlefish – that likely should not be permitted species for bowfishing, just as bowfishers may not shoot trout, bass and other “game” species. Could you imagine if unregulated bowfishing was allowed on a blue-ribbon trout stream? On a popular tournament bass lake? Could you really argue this wouldn't impact the fishery? Well, the same is true for buffalo, gar and other native fish species.

“This issue has crept up on a lot of us,” says Schooley. “Unfortunately, to date, there hasn't been much interest in managing these species or any funding allocated to do it. This growing sport puts the responsibility on state agencies.”

The problem is that state fish and game agencies are not just beholden to science, regardless of how many times that old line is repeated in outdoor magazines. They're also beholden to their constituents, mainly hunters and anglers.

And many hunters and anglers are ecologically illiterate. They resist change. They trot out the idea that “trash fish” is an actual classification and killing them is good for rivers and for game fish. They are – gasp! – advocating for management based on emotion, not science.

That's where you come in. It's time to change the fish conservation narrative. Know the science (or lack thereof) underpinning state fish regulations. Don't trot out management clichés or outdated notions about “trash” fish.

The outdoor press has in many instances changed perceptions about fish and fishing. At one point, long ago, largemouth and smallmouth bass were considered “trash.” Ditto for catfish. They are now managed as game species. Native cutthroat trout have been restored to Western streams because anglers (and outdoor writers) advocated for it.

Rough fish need advocates too. I see evidence that attitudes are changing. I read increasing numbers of stories celebrating fish like alligator gar, bigmouth buffalo and bowfin. But as an outdoor writer, you can do more.

You can begin by questioning your own assumptions. You might accept that hunting and fishing regulations are based on “sound science.” But sometimes they're not. And it's your responsibility to report that, not repeat outdated clichés.

Matthew L. Miller is the author of *Fishing Through the Apocalypse: An Angler's Adventures in the 21st Century* and is the director of science communications for The Nature Conservancy. Read more at: www.blog.nature.org.



Editor's Note: Above is the native bowfin (*amia calva*), or dogfish. Once thought to be harmful to fish populations, biologists now know that bowfin are actually beneficial and help maintain a balanced fishery in their home waters.

Ducks Unlimited Improves Nearly 700 Acres of Wetlands in Indiana for Water Quality, Wildlife Habitat

FORT WAYNE, IN – April 1, 2021 – Ducks Unlimited (DU) and numerous partners protected, enhanced or restored 678 acres of wetland and grassland habitat on seven Indiana project sites in 2020, greatly improving water quality and wildlife habitat.

The milestones in 2020 were achieved with field staff taking extra precautions and using creative solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic, and at a time when Indiana’s state-protected wetlands face unprecedented threats in the legislature. The acres conserved added to a sizeable historical investment in Indiana. Over the last 30 years, Ducks Unlimited has completed more than 600 projects which conserved nearly 33,000 wetland and grassland acres across the state, investing more than \$19 million in wetland habitats.



Cedar Swamp Wetland Conservation Area in Steuben County.

Many partners contributed to the projects, with federal funding from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) and the Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Restoration Act.

To be successful, voluntary wetlands conservation efforts from DU and other groups rely on state and federal protections which prevent further habitat loss. Senate Bill 389 would completely eliminate Indiana’s isolated wetland protection program. The state’s wetland protection program is structured to conserve the state’s wetlands not otherwise protected by section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act. If this legislation is passed in its current form, hundreds of thousands of acres of wetlands would be at risk of unmitigated draining

and filling. The bill was approved by the Senate and now awaits debate in the House. **UPDATE:** It was passed.

“Nearly 90% of Indiana’s wetlands have been lost due to human development,” said Dane Cramer, DU regional biologist for Indiana. “Our landscape-level conservation efforts help more than ducks. Wetlands benefit local residents by reducing flooding risk, improving water quality and boosting the economy.”

Highlights from 2020 include:

- **Steuben County** – The 400-acre Cedar Swamp Wetland Conservation Area got a big fix that will keep a beloved wetland productive for future generations of waterfowl and nature lovers. DU and several partners engineered and installed infrastructure needed for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to properly maintain water levels.
- **Newton County** – The 9,956-acre Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area includes nearly 1,200 acres of managed emergent marshes, forested wetlands, open water habitats, upland habitats and at its center, the 1,000-acre J.C. Murphey Lake. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources and DU will be starting three restoration projects here this year that will improve 330 acres.
- **Jackson County** – Ducks Unlimited is using license plate sales to help fund the restoration and enhancement of two wetlands in Indiana’s Hoosier National Forest. The effort is a partnership between DU, the National Wild Turkey Federation and the U.S. Forest Service. Construction will begin this summer on two wetlands near Houston resulting in 19 acres of improved habitat, increased wetland acreage, improved water-level management and wetland productivity. www.du.org

For a complete report of 2020 activities and a look into what’s planned for 2021 and beyond, see the [Indiana's Conservation Report](#) and visit www.ducks.org/Indiana. For more info, email Chris Sebastian, csebastian@ducks.org.



THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US



Terrence “Terry” Paris – Age 71
Friend of HOW and Champion for
Veterans and the Hoosier Sportsman

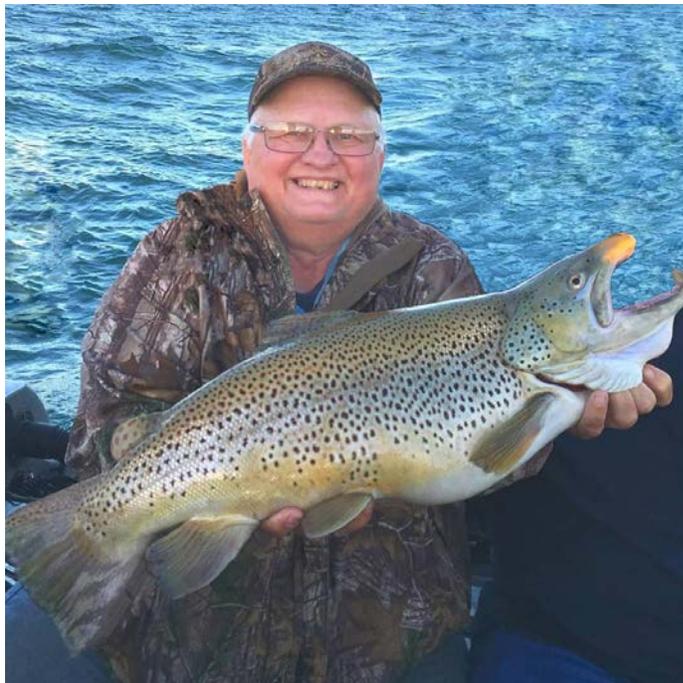
Terrence “Terry” Paris, age 71, of Hammond, passed away unexpectedly at home on Saturday, March 27, 2021. He was born November 15, 1949 to the late Ralph and Elizabeth Paris. Terry was a 1967 graduate of Hammond Tech High School and he went on to earn his AS Degree in Business. Terry proudly served our country in the US Navy Seabees for 28 years.

He is survived by his children, Jessica (Robert) Maxwell and Terrence (Rebecca Ducret) Paris; grandchildren, Akia, Amya, Alyia Maxwell and Victoria Ducret; brother, Doug (Joyce) Paris; three children, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Terry retired from Union Tank Car Company with 33 years of service. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, traveling, family and friends. Terry was a loving son, brother, husband, father, grandfather and friend, and will truly be missed by all whose lives he touched.

Terry was a veteran of the Vietnam War, and he was a well-known fixture at area veteran’s events. He was also a lifelong outdoorsman, and he loved fishing and hunting. He had his own Lake Michigan boat (“Minnow”) and he was an excellent salmon and trout fisherman. He also traveled all over the world to hunt, including multiple trips to Africa for big game hunting. Terry was actively involved in helping with youth hunting and fishing events, and he performed hunter safety training for the State of Indiana for many years.

As a member of the Lake County Fish & Game Protective Association, Terry was always quick to volunteer his boat and his services as a boat captain whenever the Hoosier Outdoor Writers group was having a Lake Michigan fishing outing. His boat often brought in one of the heaviest coolers for those HOW fishing outings, too.



Funeral Services were held on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at Chapel Lawn Funeral Home in Crown Point, IN. Interment followed at the adjacent Chapel Lawn Memorial Gardens. Friends were invited to meet with the family until the time of the service at the funeral home.

Terry will be deeply missed by all who knew him.



HOW Member News

Jack Spaulding and the Gourmet Cook's Challenge

HOW Past President Jack Spaulding has cooked a lot of different things over the years, including many different wild critters. "In our family, I have a reputation as one who doesn't shy away from strange foods," said Spaulding. "I'm quick to rise to the challenge to cook anything at hand using my grill, smoker, deep fryer, Dutch oven or cast iron skillet."

"I have to admit, thanks to our oldest daughter Kristi and our son-in-law Mike, I had the opportunity to prepare what has to be my most unusual culinary item to date. For our anniversary, they bought us a full alligator."

"The gator came hard-frozen and shrink-wrapped, and it weighed about seven pounds. The carcass had been expertly and meticulously cleaned, gutted and skinned except for the head and the feet. I thought that was a nice touch!"

"Having no experience smoking a full gator, even a small one, I went to the internet to find some instructions. I found plenty of information including blogs, videos and cooking reviews. Turns out, cooking and smoking whole gators has been done for a long time – just not in Southern Rush County, and not in my garage."

"To start the process, I brined the carcass for 24 hours in a solution of one cup of pickling salt, one cup of brown sugar and two gallons of water."

"To prepare the critter for the smoker, I rinsed it thoroughly, coiled it into a tight circle so it would fit in the smoker, and used metal skewers it to hold it in place. I put the gator on a greased smoker rack, and blanketed the carcass with pieces of bacon to help keep it moist while smoking. Everything is better with bacon!"



"Into a 240-degree wet smoker it went, basking in apple and hickory wood smoke for a little over five hours."

"It was truly a unique experience. The result was a moist meat, very reminiscent of high grade smoked fish. The gator is the only thing I have ever taken out of the smoker that came out smiling at me!"

"The meat would make an excellent "gator salad" sandwich or blended with cream cheese and chives would make a great spread for crackers."

"The main course was served with my wife's homemade bread, macaroni, leeks and cheese, and paired with a crisp, white, homemade gooseberry wine. With seven pounds of smoked meat on the platter, there was plenty of gator to go around!"

Alan Garbers Explores the Great Southwest For Rattlesnakes and Mano Stones

HOW board member Alan Garbers was a serious rattlesnake hunter many years ago, and now that he has moved back to Arizona he is 'back in the saddle again'. But snakes are not the only cool things he finds out in the desert.

"Rattlesnake hunting takes me places many folks don't go," explained Garbers. "The most productive method is to locate rattlesnake dens in the spring and fall. Snakes are prone to migrate back to a specific den year after year, so while there is no good way to predict where a rattlesnake will be during the summer, there is a good chance that they will be sunning themselves close to a den site in the warm weather of spring and fall. It has been my experience that dens are located on southern and southwestern rock faces that catch the low angle of the sun and hold the heat. These same locations were often used by Native Americans for the same reasons."

"Hunting for rattlesnakes requires a lot of footwork, a mirror, and extreme caution. I look for rock outcroppings or rock bluffs that face south. Sometimes the talus slope holds snakes as the space between the larger rocks makes great locations to catch some rays without being exposed to predators. Sometimes there are cracks in the rock face large and deep enough to allow snakes to crawl in. And, many times prickly pear cacti, bear grass and other plants provide the perfect combination of shade, sun and protection for rattlesnakes. Unlike other hunting, rattlesnake hunting requires a great deal of looking in holes, checking under things, and using a mirror to shine sunlight into dark places hoping to see a snake flicking its tongue back at you."

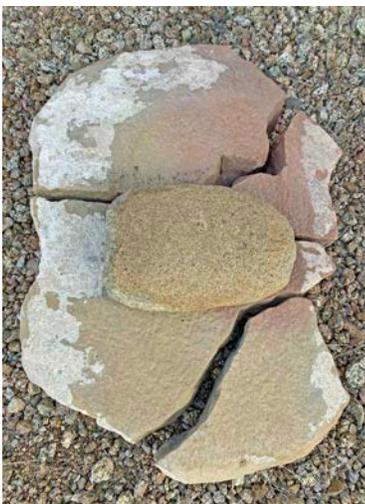
"In all that poking and checking, it isn't uncommon to find artifacts from past occupants. Pottery shards, arrowheads, and manos (grind stones) can be found by those that know what they look like."

"On a recent hunt, I was looking for rattlesnakes by Table Mesa north of Phoenix. While people love to race up and down the rough roads with ATVs, few bother to explore the rugged mountains on foot. The area is mostly as it was hundreds of years ago. On a rocky bluff overlooking a dry riverbed, I spotted the classically shaped mano, which translates to hand or hand-held grindstone. There it is in the photo to the right."



This is a mano, a grind stone from hundreds of years ago. Photos on this page by Alan Garbers.

"In the southwest, many of the Native American tribes relied on farming and grew corn and other plants. They also harvested nuts and seeds from cacti. I won't go into where they found the cacti seeds. To best use the seeds, nuts, and corn, they had to be ground up. That took a mano and a metate. The metate was the flat surface that the material was placed on. The mano was the hand stone that was worked back and forth over the metate. Over years of use, the mano would be ground smooth or polished if the stone was hard enough. The metate would be worked down until it became almost bowl-like."



"While collecting items on state and federal lands is prohibited, in our younger days, Dianna and I lived and worked on private ranches in southwest Colorado that were littered with artifacts. I became well-versed at spotting manos and the remnants of metates (see photo at left). I say remnants because the past owners had a custom of breaking the metate to release the spirit inside, so finding a complete metate is rare. They often did the same thing with pottery."

"No, I didn't find any rattlesnakes by Table Mesa, but I did find another memory to think about when I'm too old to climb the mountains of Arizona. Hopefully, that's a long way off."



Troy McCormick Looks for Springtime Treasures

HOW Past President Troy McCormick has been pretty busy with his favorite Minelab metal detector already this spring, and he has found some cool artifacts. But recently he posted a photo online of a different type of prize he found while roaming outdoors:

“It’s not all about the coins,” said McCormick. “Keep your eyes open for other springtime treasures, too! Here is a morel mushroom I found. I just cleaned it and fixed it in a 4-egg omelette!! A nice bonus to my metal detecting today. And tasty, too.”

Morels are popping up right now, so be sure to make some time to get outside and look for a few of your own. Fresh morel mushrooms are hard to beat at the dinner table!

Tom Berg and Mike Schoonveld Fish for Early-Season Lake Michigan Trout & Salmon

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg and HOW Past President Mike Schoonveld were out on the Big Lake in early March, searching for spring-run coho salmon on Schoonveld’s boat *Brother Nature*. The weather was nice, but the temperature was cold, as can be seen by how bundled-up Berg was in this photo (at right).

Although Great Lakes brown trout are often part of the catch at this time of year, they were absent on that day. Instead, a nice-sized lake trout hit one of the slow-trolled lures, and Berg successfully battled it to the boat. A few cohos also made it into the livewell, so it was a great day out on Lake Michigan.

Since that day, Schoonveld has been loading-up on lake trout (and cohos) for his charterboat customers when the weather allows him to get out to where the fish are.



Membership Changes and Member Contact Info

The following HOW members have updated contact information:

Brandon Butler: New mailing address: P.O. Box 269, Fayette, MO 65248

Eric Stallsmith: New mailing address: 5735 Hwy 85 North, #697, Crestview, FL 32536

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

Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Hoosier Trapper Supply

Eastern Gray Squirrels Are Notorious Bird Feeder Raiders



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was pretty difficult, mostly because the featured animal looked like a lot of different critters. However, it was correctly identified by a total of four HOW members! Mike Schoonveld, John Maxwell, Bill Keaton and Mike Lunsford were all able to identify it. When we drew a name at random for the new **Buck 110 Slim Pro** knife, Mike Lunsford was the lucky winner.

Congratulations, Mike! Our friends at Buck Knives will send the prize directly to you.

As you can see in the photo above, the mystery creature for this issue was an **Eastern Gray Squirrel** (*Sciurus carolinensis*). Gray squirrels are pretty ingenious, especially when it comes to gaining access to the seeds in bird feeders. They quickly figure out a way to climb or jump to a well-stocked bird feeder. Even “squirrel-proof” feeders are not always safe from the little raiders, so don’t place them near trees!

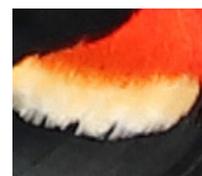
Eastern gray squirrels are not only smart, they are very prolific, too. They breed twice per year, having anywhere from 2-8 young per litter. So it does not take long for squirrel populations to explode. They live a fairly long life, too, often living to 10 years or more in the wild. Some of their natural predators include humans, hawks, owls, snakes, coyotes and raccoons.



For this issue, our friends at **Hoosier Trapper Supply** have donated a very nice prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be a special prize package of HTS swag, valued at just under \$100. See below for more info on the prize and this issue’s nature question.

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 found throughout the state of Indiana during the warm-weather months. You might even see it in your back yard, although it is more common in other areas. 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 carp, for example, go ahead and guess “black carp” (of course, it’s not a carp). If you know the answer, send an email to thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you’re right, you will be entered in this issue’s prize drawing!



As mentioned, **Hoosier Trapper Supply** (www.hoosiertrappersupply.com) has donated some special HTS swag for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. HTS specializes in trapping supplies, deer hunting scents and taxidermy work. This issue’s winner will receive a \$50 HTS gift card, a Hoosier Trapper Outdoors crewneck sweatshirt, an HTO black knit cap and an HTO Coyote decal. If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw a winner at random from the correct entries. Nature photos on this page by Tom Berg.

HOW Supporting Member News

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

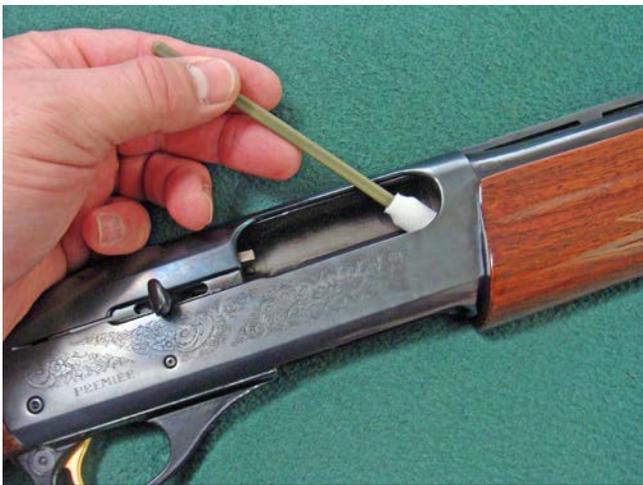
Swab-its Large Surface Firearm Cleaning Gun-tips Make Short Work of Shooting Day Cleaning Duties

Springfield, MA – The American made Swab-its Firearm Cleaning Products are washable and reusable tools that make cleaning guns faster and easier. The lint-free, durable foam solves the problem of having to pick fibers and pieces of cotton from firearms after cleaning. The fact that you can wash them and re-use them makes them extremely cost effective.

They manufacture a wide variety of Swab-its foam swabs in all shapes and sizes in order to have the perfect 360-degree fit for any gun chamber. Just about every popular caliber and bore size is covered by their product line to offer superior firearms detailing versatility. They are available in many sizes, including .22cal/5.56mm, .243cal/6mm, .30cal/7.62mm, .357cal/9mm, 40cal/10mm/.410, .45cal/11.4mm, .50cal/12.7/28ga, 12ga, and 20ga.

They also make Large Surface Gun-tips that are perfect for cleaning and oiling the larger areas in and around triggers, actions, wells and barrel ends. The applicator stick is flexible enough to help get into those hard-to-reach spots, but it is strong enough that it won't break. The nicest part, though, is the fact that the foam swabs never leave behind any of the lint or cotton fibers that cloth patches are known for.

The Large Surface Gun-tips make short work of any cleaning task since they cover more surface area than the smaller, thinner swabs. Some firearms aficionados have reported that the Large Surface Gun-tips have cut their gun cleaning time by as



Swab-its Large Surface Gun-tips are the perfect tool for cleaning just about any firearm, including auto-loader shotguns. Photo by Tom Berg.

much as 50% after switching to these larger swabs. That leaves more time for target practice at the range or hunting in the field!

Once the task of cleaning is done, you can also use Large Surface Gun-tips to apply a thin film of gun oil to all of the surfaces that require it. The larger swabs do a good job of applying the oil, especially to spots that are harder to reach. They can also distribute the oil very evenly, which is important for keeping oil from pooling in low spots.

For the ultimate in firearms cleaning, give Large Surface Gun-tips a try. Since they are 100% made in the USA, you will also be supporting workers and jobs right here in America instead of sending money overseas.



Media Contact: For more information or additional images, please contact: Cathy Desorcy, Manager - Business Insight, phone: 413-543-1442, Ext 100; email: cdesorcy@superbrush.com.

HOW Supporting Member News

Seaguar Celebrates 50 Year Anniversary With “50 Big Ones” Angler Photo Contest



Louisville, KY – In 2021, Seaguar®, the world leader in fluorocarbon line and leader material, is marking the 50th anniversary of its founding and the invention of fluorocarbon fishing line with a fun angler photo contest. To celebrate, the company has created the “50 Big Ones” photo promotion where anglers are invited to submit their favorite fish photo taken between the years 1971-2021.

When visiting the contest site at www.winseaguar.com, anglers can also vote on photos they believe deserve special recognition. Fifty winners will receive a 50th Anniversary commemorative Leader Spool Management Bag filled with three spools of Seaguar Gold Label Leader.

The contest runs from February 1, 2021 through May 31, 2021. It is open to residents of the U.S., aged 18 years and older. To enter the contest or read the complete contest rules, visit www.winseaguar.com.



Seaguar creates products that make a difference to anglers all over the world, and since it is the only fluorocarbon company that makes its own fluoro resins and controls the process from start to finish, it is uniquely able to develop lines with high-performance features to help anglers catch more fish. Seaguar is humbled by the trust the industry has put in its brand and our products.

Media Contact: Please contact Chuck Reynolds at the Omnivore Agency for more info or for additional product images. Phone: 414-224-5022, email: chuck@omnivoreagency.com.



HOW's Supporting Member Websites

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

HOW members are encouraged to check these websites for general info and answers to product and service questions.

Hoosier Outdoor Writers

Application For New Membership

(Check Desired Classification below)

- \$30 _____ Active
- \$25 _____ Associate
- \$50 _____ Supporting
- \$15 _____ Active Student
- \$10 _____ Associate Student

Personal Information:

Name: _____
Company (Supporting members only): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Professional Information:

Employer (if outdoor-related): _____ Position: _____
Business Address: _____
Business Phone: _____

1. Describe your work in the outdoor field: Full Time _____ Part Time _____

2. Check your field(s) of outdoor work:

_____ Newspapers	_____ Magazine	_____ Radio	_____ Artist
_____ Books	_____ Photography	_____ Lectures	
_____ Television	_____ Teaching	_____ Trade Journals	
_____ Blog/Online Work	_____ Public relations	_____ Government Info - Ed	
_____ Other (Specify): _____			

3. Are you paid for your outdoor work? Yes _____ No _____

4. Your work is published or disseminated: Daily ____; Weekly ____; Monthly ____; ____ times a year

Attach samples or other proof of your work in the outdoor field: newspaper clips, letters from station managers attesting to frequency of radio or TV broadcasts, lecture schedule or publicity clips, photo clips or artistic prints, title of latest book, masthead of trade journal showing your position, etc.

Send completed application and article copies to: **Tom Berg, 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311.**

I have read the principles and membership requirements of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers and would like to enroll in the classification checked above.

Signature: _____

Sponsor: _____

Who We Are

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers was formed in 1969 and has brought together many diverse groups and individuals with shared interests. The Hoosier Outdoor Writers, known among its members as HOW, is a group of dedicated media professionals who are keenly interested in the wise use of natural resources in the Hoosier State.

What We Do

These are the purposes of HOW:

1. To improve ourselves in the art, skill and effectiveness of our craft, and to increase knowledge and understanding of the whole state.
2. To help ensure the wisest and best conservation of Indiana's resources, and the most wide-spread fair use of Indiana's recreational potential.
3. To provide a vehicle for bringing together and joining in common cause all Hoosiers who by profession, hobby or interest are devoted to the outdoors.
4. Conduct an annual Awards-In-Craft Contest among its members. The award winners are announced each year at HOW's annual conference.

What We Stand For

These are what we strive to accomplish:

1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor information.
4. To help friends and fight the foes of wisely conserved Indiana resources.

Membership Requirements

Membership is open to anyone who meets one of the following:

1. Active

Members are those regularly engaged in the paid dissemination of outdoor-oriented information via newspapers, radio, television, internet/online, magazines, trade journals, books, photographs, art, lectures, or other fitting media. (Basic guidelines of "regularity" of dissemination are: 20 newspaper articles, photos or broadcasts a year; 20 online



articles, blogs, vlogs or podcasts a year; two national or four regional magazines or specialty journal articles a year, or one book, 10 lectures, or 20 bona fide outdoor news releases a year). The legal advisor for the association shall be an active member without meeting the basic guidelines.

2. Associate

Members are those who have a strong direct interest in the outdoors, either professional or personal, such as conservationists of all kinds; nature lovers; sportsmen; outdoorsmen; public employees in outdoor fields; educators teaching related subjects; fishing guides and tournament anglers, and retail-level dealers in outdoor goods, equipment or facilities.

3. Supporting

Members are those engaged in major commercial efforts directly related to the outdoors, such as manufacturers, distributors, service providers, manufacturers' representatives, or advertising agencies serving any of these.

4. Active Student

Members are those between the ages of 18 and 24 years who are bona fide college students with a major in journalism, communications, or natural resources sciences.

5. Associate Student

Members are those who are students who have an active interest in the outdoors in the areas of fishing, hunting, boating, hiking, nature, ecology, or in preserving the environment in general.

Calendar of Events

HOW 2021 Annual Conference:

(www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org)
Turkey Run Inn, Turkey Run State Park
Parke County, IN

Cancelled due to Covid-19

POMA 2021 Annual Conference:

(www.professionalooutdoormedia.org)
Franklin, TN

June 15-17, 2021

OWAA 2021 Annual Conference:

(www.owaa.org)
Jay Peak Resort, VT

July 9-12, 2021

AGLOW 2021 Annual Conference:

(www.aglowinfo.org)
Gaylord, MI

September 12-17, 2021

Indianapolis Fall Boat & RV Show:

(www.IndySportShow.com)
Indianapolis, IN

September 24-26, 2021

SEOPA 2021 Annual Conference:

(www.seopa.org)
Glade Springs Resort, WV

October 6-9, 2021

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 for possible inclusion in future issues of *The Blade*.