

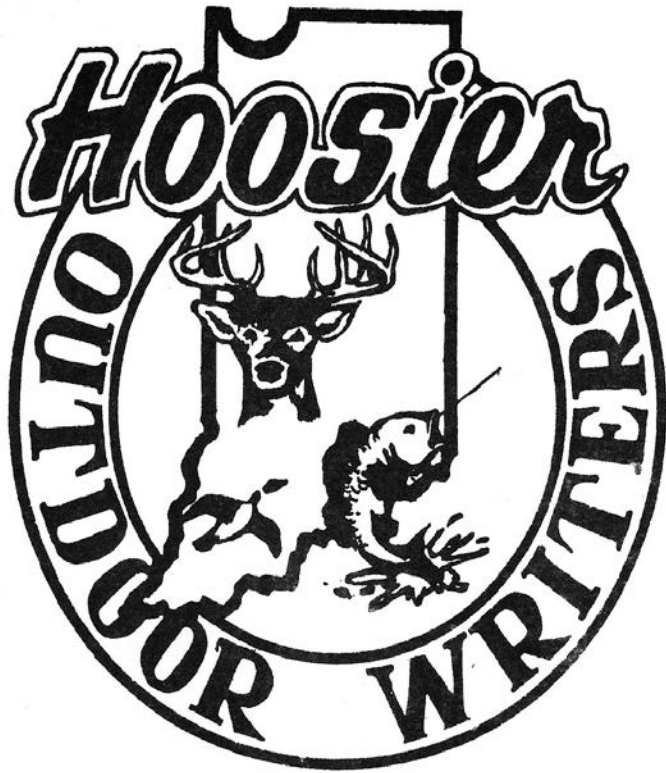
The Blade

July - August 2022

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"The Brilliant Blue Indigo Bunting", 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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On the cover: *The brilliant blue coloration of the male indigo bunting is especially beautiful in the bright morning sunlight. Sometimes called "blue canaries", these stunning birds actually lack blue pigment in their feathers. Instead, their feathers refract and reflect blue light. Photo by Tom Berg.*

President's Message

by Phil Seng

Nobody Likes a Poacher, So Use the TIP Hotline



Don't you just *hate* poachers? It really steams me when people steal fish and game from the rest of us, especially when it's to show off. Did you know that not long ago a well-known archery "hunter" that was featured on a nationally-known television show was hunting deer over bait on multiple sites throughout northwest Indiana?

This dude presumably knows how to hunt and has killed plenty of nice deer, but that was not enough. Instead of following the rules of fair chase and responsible hunting, this person chose the dark side and decided to break the law to get an unfair advantage over the deer—as well as the rest of us true hunters.

Well, the good news is that an alert passerby saw the illegal activity and made an anonymous call to Indiana's Turn in a Poacher hotline. IDNR conservation officers were able to use that information to conduct additional surveillance and bust the thief in the act of illegally harvesting deer over bait. YES! I really love it when the bad guys get busted.

I've been a member of Indiana's TIP Advisory Board since 2003, and the Board is always looking for ways to promote the TIP hotline to sportsmen and women throughout the state so others can make those anonymous calls that get more bad actors out of the field. **Will you help?** Check out the website www.in.gov/dnr/law-enforcement/turn-in-a-poacher-or-polluter/. **The TIP Board is once again sponsoring a writing contest for HOW members, and this year we have raised the award amounts (\$1,000 total).** See the contest rules on **page 6** for more information.

Some of you have been preaching the TIP hotline and writing about it for years, but it's still surprising how many outdoor folk don't know about the hotline. So please keep helping spread the word. There's cash money to be had, and whether you bring home top prize or not, everybody wins.

In other conservation news, the bipartisan **Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R. 2773, S. 2372)** passed the House and could be voted on in the Senate soon after the summer recess! This is the most significant wildlife conservation legislation in at least a generation. It would dedicate almost \$1.4 billion each year toward proactive, voluntary conservation efforts for wildlife at risk, funding on-the-ground conservation efforts such as habitat restoration, fighting invasive species and wildlife diseases and much more.

If you haven't yet told your readers about RAWA, please consider doing so. We are on the verge of an historic moment in conservation history. The National Wildlife Federation has a nice [summary of the bill](#) on its website. I encourage you to check it out and let your readers know.

The fish, wildlife and habitat that we all love will be the big winners!

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents and Memorial Section

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

Clint Kowalik (Associate)
Greenwood, IN
Sponsor: Don Cranfill

Memorial to Deceased HOW Members Those Who Have Gone Before Us:

Jack Alkire – HOW President 1979
Bill Beeman – Executive Director
 Don Bickel
 Ed Blann
 Charlie Brown
 Gary Carden
Jim “Moose” Carden – HOW President 1982-83
 George Carey
 John Case
Bill Church – HOW President 1972
 Gene Clifford
 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
Kenny Bayless	2021

HOW Awards-In-Craft Winner

1st Place in the Writing Contest (Hunting/Trapping category) – Under 1000 Words

Be Mindful of Others When Transporting Deer

by John Martino

Last week as I pulled up to a stoplight I noticed a truck in the adjoining lane. I was envious. The driver had obviously seen success earlier that morning as a deer laid in the bed. He intentionally left the tailgate down for others to see. Behind him were two women in a sedan intently staring at the lifeless animal. Although I could not hear what they were saying, I could tell by their actions they were not overly impressed by the public display.

Most hunters appreciate the luck of other hunters. All you have to do is go by any deer processor and you're sure to see people gathered around, telling stories of their hunt while they stand proudly with their harvest, while others listen.

Without a doubt, one of the best parts of consumptive hunting is bringing your game home, either for the dinner table, as a new mount for the living room wall or both. But the journey from the woodlot to the wall can be long and hard and there are some unwritten rules to consider before you begin.

It wasn't that long ago a buck strapped to a car top was a source of pride. But those days have faded. Non-hunters, though they may understand the importance of hunting, might not want to see vehicles parading through town with dead animals in the back. Several states used to have laws requiring hunters to transport deer in open view but they are quickly dropping these decades old rules, preferring instead to have hunters keep their game under wraps.

And for the most part, that suits responsible sportsmen just fine, especially as more hunting takes place in urban areas. We have all heard stories of people driving with deer in an open bed of a pick-up truck or on one of the open-air cargo carriers only to have someone pull up behind them and start either cursing or shaking their head in disgust. We don't need that kind of publicity. We want to minimize exposure to those who may not necessarily oppose hunting but who dislike the sight of a bloody deer laying in full public view.

In Colorado, their Division of Wildlife instructs hunters to transport deer out of sight if possible. The Pennsylvania Game Commission states: "Please do not display deer on open racks or in truck beds with

tailgates down." They believe hunters need to be more aware of their image and the effect it can have on the non-hunting public.

The problem does not necessarily lie with the tradition of hunting. It has more to do with a society becoming increasingly disconnected from our wildlife resources and what it takes to adequately sustain it. The same people who may be bothered by a deer carcass don't comprehend the hamburger they ate the night before was once in the same situation.

But perception is reality and hunters need to be cognizant of how we transport our game. In fact, not displaying dead, big game animals is becoming widely accepted as part of ethical hunting. One of the easiest ways to respectfully transport game is to simply cover it with a tarp. Not only does this keep the animal hidden from sensitive eyes, it also protects the game from dirt, grime and the elements outside.

It was just a few weeks back my friend Mark Pyne collected a beautiful 10-point buck while hunting the urban zone in Marion County. The Indianapolis skyline could be seen in the distance and houses bordered two sides of the woodlot he hunted. Instead of dragging his buck straight to the truck, a distance of only a hundred yards, Pyne painstakingly hauled it nearly a half mile. He then walked all the way back to his vehicle before driving to the area where he left his buck. Why did he do this? "I didn't want to upset anyone by seeing me drag a dead deer next to their backyards," he explained. "Why cause any problems if you don't have to?"

However, the idea that bagged game should be transported covertly does not sit well with everyone. Some worry about the message it sends. "I am proud of my hunting heritage and I am not going to hide it," says Bob Likens, who has hunted deer for nearly 50 years. "I have taught all of my children and grandchildren to be responsible hunters and to be proud of it."

For me personally, I think the whole matter of transporting wild game boils down to a matter of respect. We, as hunters, should be respectful of those who may not hunt just as they should respect those of us who do. And as Pyne said, "Why cause any problems when you don't have to?"



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 have jumped up to \$500 for first place; \$300 for second place; \$200 for third place.** 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, 2022** and **January 31, 2023**. 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 Phil Seng (phil@djcase.com). They must be emailed by March 1, 2023.

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 \$500 reward, and you can remain anonymous. More information is available at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2745.htm>

Don't wait until the end of the year – write your TIP article and get it published today!



The Gene Clifford Bluebird Trail

HOW members and birdwatchers from the general public are invited to register their bluebird nesting box(es) with the Gene Clifford Bluebird Trail. The Izaak Walton League’s Porter County Chapter and NIPSCO have partnered together to help support bluebird nesting efforts in northwest Indiana.

Gene Clifford was a long-time HOW member, and he passed away December 19, 2021. He was a nature writer, hunter, bird watcher, IWLA-Porter County Chapter member and lived his whole life in NW Indiana. His goal was to spread the joy of watching bluebirds in the yard by making nesting boxes available to local citizens. He spent countless hours cutting bird house pieces and teaching young people how to build and use them.

Through the support of the NIPSCO Environmental Action Grant, the IWLA-Porter County Chapter is carrying on his vision and expanding it to include documenting bluebird activity with Cornell University Labs Nest Watch data collection program. **As a citizen scientist, you can contribute too!**

After [registering your bluebird box with us](#), we’ll provide you with the data logging sheets and teach you how to collect data. PCC’s administrators can help you upload your findings to Cornell Lab Nest Watch or show you how to do it yourself. As a back yard bird scientist, you’ll also learn to maintain a healthy bluebird population in your own neighborhood.

The Goal is 100 Bluebird Boxes by 2024

We are starting the Gene Clifford Trail with 50 nest boxes. There are 10 at IWLA-PCC’s own Frame Family Little Calumet Conservation Area, and seven of those boxes are currently successful. The public is invited during daylight hours to visit the trail at 1294 No. County Line Road, Michigan City, IN.

There are also 10 nest boxes on the NIPSCO property in Porter County. Both areas will be used to teach students and Dunes Learning Center campers about song birds, their environment and how to care for the future of the Earth and its creatures. A total of 30 nest boxes will be available for citizens who cannot afford to purchase one, but have the time and interest to monitor a bluebird nesting box.



By 2024 we endeavor to have 100 or more bluebird nesting boxes registered on the Trail.

What if you have the time and interest, but no extra funds to purchase a nesting box at this time?

[Complete this form](#) and we will contact you about receiving a free bluebird nesting box for your yard, compliments of the NIPSCO Environmental Action Grant.

The IWLA-PCC Executive Director, Annette Hansen, is this program’s administrator and will be happy to answer questions or set-up events for education. She may be reached by phone 219-241-7431 or by email: executivedirector@iwlapcc.com.



This project is funded by the NIPSCO Environmental Action Grant 2022





THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US



Larry Stephens – Age 74 – Fishing Industry Friend

April 15, 1948 - July 6, 2022

Larry Gene Stephens, devoted husband, father, grandpa, brother and friend passed away peacefully at home on July 6th at the age of 74 surrounded by family. Born on April 15, 1948 to James and Ruby (Turner) Stephens in Shelbyville, Indiana, Larry moved to Letts, Indiana with his parents and four siblings at the age of three. Larry continued to live in the Letts and Westport area throughout his life.

Larry graduated from Sandcreek High School in 1966. In high school, Larry was active in basketball, cross country and track, participating in the pole vault. After graduation, Larry attended Southern Ohio Business College and as a result was hired at Irwin Union Bank in 1967.

In February 1968, Larry joined the United States Army and honorably served as an Army Security Agent in Vietnam. A decorated veteran, he received many medals including a Purple Heart. Upon Larry's return, he married his high school sweetheart Dorothy Manlief and returned to Irwin Union Bank. He retired after 30 years of service as Assistant Vice President of Commercial Lending.

Larry loved to fish. Not only was it an enjoyable pastime for him, he loved sharing his love of fishing with his boys, grandchildren and friends. Larry enjoyed fishing so much he came out of retirement for a second career with Touchdown Lures as a National Sales Manager and as a National Promotions Director and Tournament Director for Crappie USA. He worked for many years with Crappie USA alongside **HOW member** Larry Crecelius.

A seasoned traveler, Larry enjoyed taking trips all over the country with his family and friends. Over the years, Larry was able to see all but two states and loved to tell many stories about his travels with Dorothy, his boys, parents and in-laws. Larry had the CB radio name Largemouth Bass and was a great friend to the fishing industry.

Larry would tell you his greatest accomplishment in life was his three boys, Brad, Chris and Greg. Larry was a supportive dad being actively involved in their activities. Whether he was fishing with Brad or Greg or being Chris' biggest supporter and crew chief during his go-karting days, all three boys would tell you they could not have asked for a more supportive and loving dad. A member of Westport Christian Church, Larry loved Jesus and was looking forward to fishing in heaven with Jesus and many family and friends that he planned to meet again.

A visitation to honor and remember Larry was held at Bass and Gasper Funeral Home on Tuesday, July 12th. The funeral service was on July 13th and burial was at South Park Cemetery with military gravesite services. Memorial donations in Larry's honor may be made to Hospice of Decatur County, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Indiana, or Sandcreek Alumni Scholarship Fund.

Online condolences can be made to the family at www.bassgasper.com.



Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife Starts *Report a Mammal* Project

HOW members and citizen scientists from the general public are needed to help the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife with their *Report a Mammal* project. Do you like to report wildlife you see while enjoying nature? Did you get something unusual on a trail camera and want to share it to help wildlife in Indiana? DFW has launched a new Report a Mammal form that may be for you.

You can help the Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife by submitting reports of [certain mammals of interest](#). These mammals can potentially be seen from the comfort of your home, on your way to work, or while out biking, hiking, or camping. Compiling observations of these species can help identify local and state-wide trends in these rare or elusive mammals.



Above: A 13-lined ground squirrel. **Below Left:** A flying squirrel tries to crack open a tasty nut under cover of darkness. DNR photos.

Report a Mammal now includes armadillos, badgers, gray foxes, flying squirrels, star-nosed moles, ground squirrels, weasels, and more. See the full list of species, learn how to identify them, and report a mammal of interest here: on.IN.gov/report-a-mammal.



Mammals of interest include a variety of species. Some may be nocturnal and difficult to observe, others may have no resident breeding populations but are visitors to Indiana, and the rest may be common locally but rare elsewhere in the state. The report form also includes species at risk of

declining and [Species of Greatest Conservation Need](#).


The report form allows you to submit a photo or brief video to help document the observation. Media of the animal observed would be most useful, though DNR biologists can examine evidence left by the mammal, too (tracks, scat, or other signs). Completion of this form is voluntary. Data submitted may be shared within DNR and partners with the discretion of DNR staff. Personal information will be used to process your observation and may also be used for participation in surveys and other secondary purposes. DNR staff will only respond to reports if more info is needed.

Mammal Report

Thank you for reporting a mammal of interest in Indiana to the Department of Natural Resources. Your report will be sent to a biologist for review and added to a database to monitor Indiana's mammals of interest.

We currently accept reports of [armadillo](#), [badger](#), [black bear](#), [bobcat](#), [Franklin's ground squirrel](#), [gray fox](#), [gray wolf](#), [jumping mouse](#), [mountain lion](#), [pygmy shrew](#), [smoky shrew](#), [Southern flying squirrel](#), [star-nosed mole](#), [thirteen-lined ground squirrel](#), [weasel species](#), and [Western harvest mouse](#).

DNR
Indiana Department
of Natural Resources



State Form 55773 (R / 3-22)

Observer Information

First Name*

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



For immediate release: June 29, 2022

Walleye and Saugeye Stocked this Spring Await Anglers

The outlook for walleye and saugeye fishing looks good for upcoming years after a total of 28.3 million walleye fry, 529,404 walleye fingerlings, and 101,800 saugeye were stocked at various locations around Indiana this spring. Stocking for these species is scheduled annually because they don't reproduce naturally in most locations.

Walleye fry were stocked at the end of April, while walleye and hybrid walleye fingerlings were stocked at the end of May and early June. Typically, walleye and hybrid walleye will reach 14 inches two years after being stocked and 16 inches after three years.

Because this year was successful for egg collection, hatching rates for fry, and fingerling production, hatchery staff and biologists were able to fully stock all requested locations, including a few that were on the surplus list. "Expect good walleye fishing to continue in future years," said Tom Bacula, DNR fisheries biologist.

These lakes, with their counties in parentheses, were stocked as follows:

Walleye fry were stocked at Bass (Starke), Brookville (Franklin and Union), Eagle Creek (Marion), Mississinewa (Wabash), Monroe (Brown and Monroe), and Patoka (Orange, Dubois, and Crawford).

Walleye fingerlings were stocked at Cagles Mill (Owen and Putnam), Freeman (Carroll), Kokomo Reservoir (Howard), Lake of the Woods (Marshall), Pike (Kosciusko), Prairie Creek Reservoir (Delaware), Shafer (White), Summit (Henry), and Oakdale Dam on Tippecanoe River (Carroll).

Saugeye fingerlings were stocked at Glenn Flint (Putnam), Huntingburg (Dubois), Koteewi Park (Hamilton), and Sullivan (Sullivan).

The statewide bag limit for walleye, sauger, and saugeye is six fish per day in combination. For walleye, the minimum size limit is 14 inches for waters south of State Road 26 and 16 inches for waters north of State Road 26. Lakes with walleye exceptions are Bass (Starke) and Wolf (Lake) where the minimum is 14 inches, Lake George (Steuben) where the minimum is 15 inches, and Wall (LaGrange) where the minimum is 16 inches with a two fish daily bag limit.

There is no size limit on saugeye (or on sauger) except on Huntingburg Lake (Dubois), Glenn Flint Lake (Putnam), and Sullivan Lake (Sullivan) where the minimum size limit is 14 inches. Ohio River has a minimum size limit of 14 inches and a six fish combination limit per day for walleye, sauger, and saugeye. Learn more about fishing for walleye: wildlife.IN.gov/fishing/walleye-fishing.

Media contact: Tom Bacula, fisheries biologist, DNR Fish & Wildlife, phone: 574-896-3673, email: tbacula@dnr.IN.gov.



SEPTEMBER 10, 2022 INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL TRAINING FOR LANDOWNERS

Learn how to control out-of-control invasive vegetation on your forest property.

Practical, hands-on training by foresters and natural resource professionals.

Topics:

- Assessing your invasive plant problem – species, size, amount
- Three pillars of invasive management – prevention, early detection, strategic management of existing infestations.
- What are your control options and deciding which methods are best for your situation.
- Herbicides? Which to use, how to read the label, calculating rates, how to mix, application methods and techniques, timing, safety, laws and regulations.
- Funding and technical assistance
- Hiring a contractor
- Set your goals and objectives. Put it all together in a plan.

Covid Instructions: For the health and safety of other attendees, please do not attend if you are feeling ill or are required to self isolate or quarantine. Attendees that must cancel due to Covid-19 will receive a full refund.

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service is an equal access/equal opportunity institution

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9 AM – 5 PM

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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:

Photographing birds in the mountains of the southwest is productive and adventuresome, but the small lakes and streams below those peaks can also attract waterfowl like a magnet. HOW member Dave Hoffman recently visited a ranch in the shadow of the Santa Rita Mountains southeast of Tucson, and stalked one of his favorite ducks during an entire afternoon. "They can be seen in Indiana, but it would be nice if we had more of them,"



said Hoffman. He was speaking of the graceful and powerful **Northern Pintail** (*Anas acutiva*). Flying in line formation like a military unit, their long narrow wings can propel the large dabbling ducks quickly out of shooting range.

Some call them the "greyhound of ducks" when they rocket past with their long necks and tail outstretched.

Abundant in the shallow ponds and wetlands of the western states, the majestic pintail drake is quite beautiful.

Easily identified by the distinct, vertical, white strip dissecting the front and back of the chocolate neck, and its blue-gray bill, the pintail is highly prized by epicures. "Their long, slender necks and colorful plumage make them a work of art in my book," commented Hoffman. "They're also the favorite subject of many serious decoy carvers. I sure wish that we had a lot more of them in Indiana."

As the graceful northern pintail prepares to fly, he exposes his mossy-green speculum bracketed by cinnamon brown above and white below.

What is the speculum? It is a patch of often iridescent color on the secondary wing feathers of most duck species. The viewing angle and lighting conditions can radically affect the color of the iridescent feathers.





Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

Report from Bill Keaton:

HOW legal advisor Bill Keaton has been very busy this summer feeding his local flock of **Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds** (*Archilochus colubris*). A group of these tiny birds can be called a charm, a bouquet, a glittering, a hover, a shimmer or a tune of hummingbirds. According to Keaton, he has a huge charm of hummingbirds living nearby!

“As most birdwatchers know,” explained Keaton, “it is very difficult to count hummingbird numbers because they are constantly in motion. I knew we had a lot of hummingbirds because all four of the feeders at my house were emptied every other day. At the house I have two one-cup window feeders on our bedroom window; one two-cup feeder on our sunroom window; and one six-cup feeder on our deck. All of these feeders are second story feeders above a walk-out basement. I also have a fifth feeder at my barn which is a six-cup feeder, and it is emptied about once a week. From the sunroom windows I can see all the feeders including those on the bedroom windows.”

“On the house feeders there is one to four hummingbirds feeding most of the time. I had originally estimated that we had about ten hummingbirds. Boy was I wrong! On July 17th we had rain off and on most of the day. In the late afternoon we had heavy rain for about twenty minutes. During this time, the hummingbirds quit feeding. I was wondering if they would feed in such a heavy rain, so I was occasionally watching the rain and the feeders. When the rain changed from heavy to light, I looked out at the two small bedroom feeders and couldn’t believe my eyes. I could count a minimum of twelve hummingbirds on and flying around those two feeders alone. I looked over at the other two feeders, and there were four perched on the big feeder and three more perched on the two-cup feeder. There were others flying around those feeders, too.”



Above: Six hummingbirds can be seen in this photo which Bill Keaton snapped right after a heavy rain. **Below Left:** Four more hungry hummingbirds line up at one of his other nectar feeders.



“By the time I could get my camera out, I could only get a picture of six on and around the bedroom feeders. The others had headed for the trees to wait their turn, I guess. The bedroom feeders were sheltered from the rain by the overhang of the house, so I suspect that is why there were so many there right as the heavy rain slacked off.”

“I still have no idea how many hummingbirds there are at our home. I just know there are more than I’ve ever had before. I assume there are several fledglings among those I am seeing. I’ve read that a female hummingbird raises two to three clutches in a season, so I’m probably in for even more hummingbirds as the summer season progresses.”

“I’m already feeding five to six cups of nectar every day. If the flock grows even more, I am going to have to add additional feeders! Actually, I just added a second six-cup feeder, and all of my feeders are emptied every day and a half. There are two to four hummingbirds on every feeder from dawn to dusk, daily. Today I put out a full gallon of nectar!”

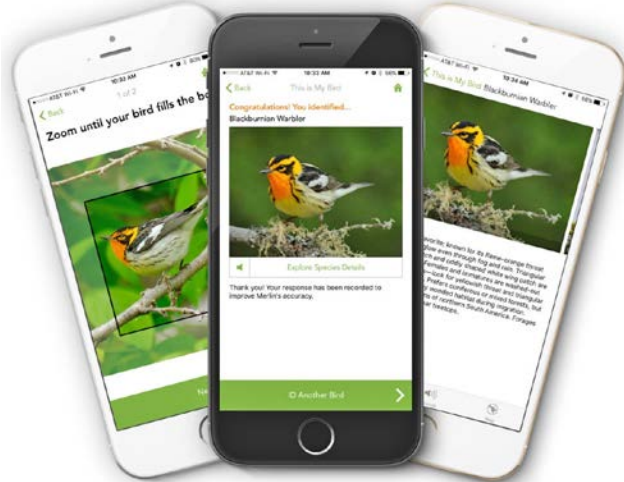
Did you take a cool bird photo while exploring afield recently? Did you see the bird in your back yard? While traveling far from home? Send the photo in for others to enjoy!

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

Merlin Phone App Provides Benefits to Birders

by Tom Berg

I love photographing wild birds. Through the years I have progressed with several different cameras, and I must say that having a good camera and a good lens makes a big difference when it comes to getting good photos of fast-moving birds. Of course, a lot of luck is still involved, because most birds never sit still.



Technology is definitely a great boon to photographers, and not just with actual camera equipment. One of the cool tech-things that I have started using more and more is the Merlin app for smartphones. I am not a smartphone guru, and I still don't have a lot of apps on my phone. But one that I have really grown to love is the Merlin app for birds.

This app is extremely good at identifying birds from just a photo. When I download a bunch of bird photos from my camera onto my computer, I can use the Merlin app to help identify any bird species that I am not already familiar with.

For example, a couple years ago I took a photo of a tiny warbler-sized bird during the spring migration that I had never seen before. Of course I had no idea what it was, so I displayed the photo on my computer monitor and opened the Merlin app on my phone. I chose "Photo ID" on the app and clicked the camera icon so my phone could take a photo of the bird on my computer screen. Then Merlin asked for the location and date when the bird was seen since bird species have known migration routes and breeding grounds.

Once I entered the info, I clicked the "Identify" button on Merlin and it immediately brought up a photo and description of a Blue-Headed Vireo. Wow! It asked if this was my bird, and it certainly was. The Merlin app is such a great tool for identifying birds.

But there's more. Amazingly, it can also identify birds by their songs. If you hear a bird singing in the trees but can't see it, go ahead and open the Merlin app on your phone and choose "Sound ID". It will enable the microphone on your smartphone and it will say "Listening for Birds". As it hears a bird, the app will identify it and show a photo of it. It will continue recording and listening until you stop it, and it will often hear several different species of birds if you are in a location with lots of birds. Each time a different bird sings, it will highlight the photo of that bird.

I have turned on the Sound ID function of the Merlin app many times and was amazed at all of the different birds it could hear. One day this spring it identified a Baltimore Oriole, so I looked up into the trees and there it was! Technology can be a great thing at times. While up in Wisconsin earlier this summer, the Merlin app heard a Pine Warbler and a Yellow-Throated Vireo near our camper. I haven't seen either one of those birds, so I was anxious to see and photograph them and add them to my Life List. Unfortunately, the forest was too thick and the birds never came out into the open where I could see them. Sometimes technology can be frustrating, too!

The Merlin app is available as a free download from the App Store on your phone, and I recommend all birders add it to their phones.



HOW Member News

Schoonveld Samples Chautauqua County Walleye Fishing

HOW past president Mike Schoonveld made the trek up to New York's Chautauqua County to fish for walleyes (and other fish) in August, and he had a good time. He and a handful of other writers fished the New York waters of eastern Lake Erie, and this shallowest of the Great Lakes provided plenty of memories. Here is Mike's report:

"Consider the facts," said Schoonveld:

- 1) Walleye are fun to catch.
- 2) Walleye are great to eat.
- 3) Lake Erie, with more than 100 million walleye, is the greatest walleye lake in the world.

"Everyone knows this because outdoor writers have been telling that story for over three decades. Is there anything left to write (or film or podcast) about it?"

"Of course there is, but the secret to making it interesting enough to get paid to write, video or report on is to find angles on Lake Erie walleye that haven't been considered. That's why I was invited by Chautauqua County Tourism Department to pay a visit to this westernmost county in New York state a couple of weeks ago."

"When most people think of Lake Erie, they think of Ohio. And when they think of walleye fishing in Lake Erie, they think of the western end of the lake. However, one of the mostly untold stories about Lake Erie walleyes is that when the fishing goes into the summer doldrums in the western basin, one of the reasons is because many of the fish have left, migrating to the eastern end of the lake. That makes August through October prime time to fish in eastern Lake Erie."

"Chautauqua Tourism is very outdoor-oriented and is amenable to visiting outdoor communicators. If you are interested in learning more about that area of the world, setting up a trip and getting assistance, contact Dave Barus, Outdoor Activities Consultant for the county's tourism department at dbarus35@yahoo.com, or via phone or text at 716-597-4081."



Alan Garbers Loves Desert Wildlife



When HOW past president Alan Garbers moved from Indiana to Arizona a couple of years ago, he was excited about living “out in the country”. Well, he actually lives out in the desert, but it is about the same thing. We are sure he was hoping he would see lots of desert wildlife around his new home, and he definitely has not been disappointed. That’s actually a bit of an understatement. Read on to find out why.

“Here in the arid southwest,” explained Garbers, “it is rare to find naturally occurring water. Blue lines on maps are usually a dry wash and not a trout-filled stream. Stock ponds are dependent on seasonal rains and snow. The summer monsoons bring rain but not everywhere. A massive thundercloud can sweep the horizon with torrential rain while leaving other areas with a dusty broken promise. Here, water truly is life.”

“With two years of constant water supplied to our backyard wildlife tank, the local critters have come to rely on our little oasis,” he continued. “Cottontail rabbits come here in groups. Quail visit by the covey. Mourning doves are constant visitors. Rock squirrels and chipmunks are the local clowns. The scrub jays noisily partake of the refreshing liquid, then splash away the dust on their feathers.”

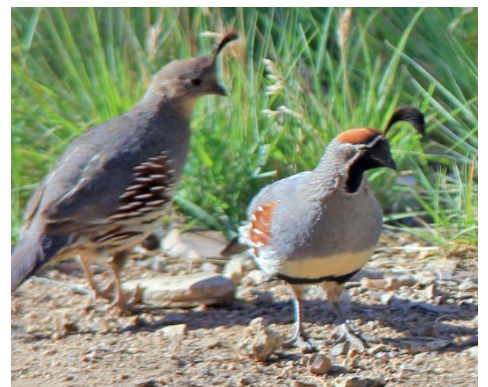


Top Left: A rock squirrel poses. **Above:** A stealthy bobcat approaches the water trough. **Left:** Mule deer also come in for a drink. **Below:** Quail visit regularly.

“Less frequent are the javelinas, a dozen at a time drinking the tank dry. Mule deer cautiously step up, ready to bolt in a second. Fox, skunks, bobcats, owls, ravens, and even mountain lions come for a drink. A game trail camera catches much of the action. An SLR camera is stationed next to the picture window for the extra rare moments.”

“A swift glance outside is always the first item of the day. The dinner table is placed to keep the water tank in full view while dining. As we are going about our lives, every pass of the window means a quick look to see what’s getting a belly full of life’s elixir.”

“Admittedly, our constant parade of wildlife friends is our biggest source of enjoyment.”



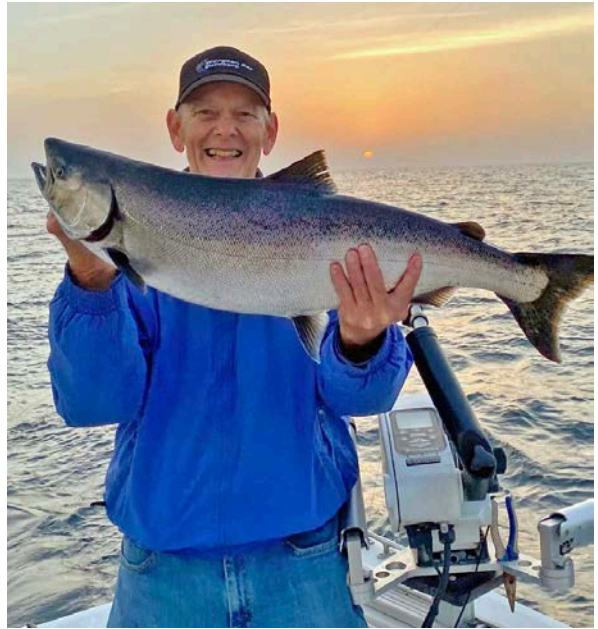
Door County Salmon Fishing Revisited

by Dave Hoffman

An early phenological report that spring leaves were sprouting twenty days earlier than normal raised our hopes for a repeat of last year's king salmon bonanza at Wisconsin's famed Sturgeon Bay.

Unfortunately, a persistent jet stream out of Alberta and Saskatchewan created a trough of frigid air over the Great Lakes which chilled the lake as well as our spirits. Captain Alex Tamble of the *Sturgeon Bay Outdoors* charter boat reported that the lake trout were still in the shallows and the chinook remained in the depths of the lake. Nevertheless, the four of us migrated from Virginia, Florida, Minnesota and Indiana in mid-June to beautiful Door County in Wisconsin.

We've all been around this planet long enough to have learned to make the best of any situation, so we toasted to our friendship and awoke at 3:00 AM to calm winds, mild temperature and a fair sky. Aboard the charter boat we were soon creeping past the Coast Guard Station Lighthouse in the eerie darkness like prison escapees. As the red pier lights faded we roared out into Lake Michigan with a real sense of anticipation.



Hoffman is all smiles after winning a 25-minute battle with a supercharged king salmon just offshore of Sturgeon Bay.



An exciting lake trout and king salmon double-header opened day two of the trip. Dave Hoffman holds the lake trout at left and John Heino (right) lifts the king.

The crew began setting the downriggers and planer boards with military precision, and later netted a sturdy king salmon, the first of the season for the vessel. The second highlight of the morning was a beautiful twenty-pound lake trout. The following morning began with a double! I cranked in another chunky laker, and wildlife photographer John Heino from Duluth hoisted our second chinook of the trip.

That's the way the adventure continued. Slow fishing, but great fish! The other side of the coin was instead of spending hours processing and vacuum-packing fish, we had time to explore the uniqueness of Door County. We photographed parks and the scenic shoreline, visited villages and sampled the local cuisine and local brews. Our final action of the trip was to confirm our reservation with Captain Tamble for next year, only a little later in the spring.

Berg Finds Great Fishing, Birding, Boating Up North

For more than 20 years, HOW Executive Director Tom Berg has made an annual trip up to northwest Wisconsin during June to help quench his thirst for fishing. While there, he also gets to do a lot of boating, bird watching, nature photography and fish cleaning! His wife Lori accompanies him, but she's not there for the fishing. She enjoys birding, wildlife viewing and relaxing on the boat. The beautiful natural vistas and quiet solitude of the northwoods are near and dear to her heart.

This year, the bluegills were in pre-spawn mode when Berg arrived and although the bite was a little slow at the beginning of the trip it heated up fast. By the last couple days of the trip the fishing action was fast and furious and it was hard to keep a bait in the water! The lakes where Berg fished gave up some real hand-sized bluegills, too, with the largest individuals pushing 10 inches.

Although he usually does not concentrate on bass fishing while up north, the largemouth bass and smallmouth bass were fairly cooperative, too. On one evening, in particular, the largemouth bass were on a real feeding spree. A near gale-force west wind had blown all day, pushing big waves



into the small bay where Berg's boat was moored. The water was churned-up along the shoreline there all day long.



Berg figured the local bass might be taking advantage of bait and minnows that were pushed into the bay and might be disoriented by the heavy wave action, so he did some late evening casting from the docks. He was rewarded with some excellent bass action in the hour before dusk. A side benefit was the west wind had blown all the mosquitoes inshore and there were none flying around the docks to bother him!

Above-Right: Berg displays one of the dandy bluegills he caught on the trip. **Above:** A few smallmouth bass also made an appearance. **Right:** A father/son kayak team paddled silently past Berg's fishing hole one afternoon.

Boating and birding were two other activities that kept Berg and his wife busy throughout the week, and they visited two lakes via boat and saw plenty of different and interesting birds. A



A sample of the birds they saw include: bald eagle, osprey, common loon, Cooper's hawk, cedar waxwing, yellow warbler, American redstart, kingfisher, eastern kingbird, great blue heron, red-winged blackbird, hooded merganser, common merganser, wood duck, mallard duck, gray catbird, great crested flycatcher, chipping sparrow, pileated woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, ruby-throated hummingbird, black-capped chickadee and Canada goose. They saw several other common bird species not mentioned above, also.

Charter Arms Bulldogs – The Pug & The Target

by Bob Jennings

In January, I emailed Charter Arms to order a Bulldog Target 44 Special, Model 74442 with 4.2 inch barrel in stainless steel and placed the order. They acknowledged my order and indicated it would be shipped when it becomes available as they were out-of-stock at the time. (Note: Handguns must be shipped to a FFL dealer).

Five months went by and I received an email notice that the revolver would be shipped by June 11th and an invoice was forthcoming. I received the invoice on June 8th and the revolver had been shipped and would arrive at my FFL dealer by June 10th.

I called my contact at Charter Arms and gave payment by VISA. The revolver arrived on June 11th. I went to my FFL dealer, filled out the paperwork and I went home with this nice revolver.

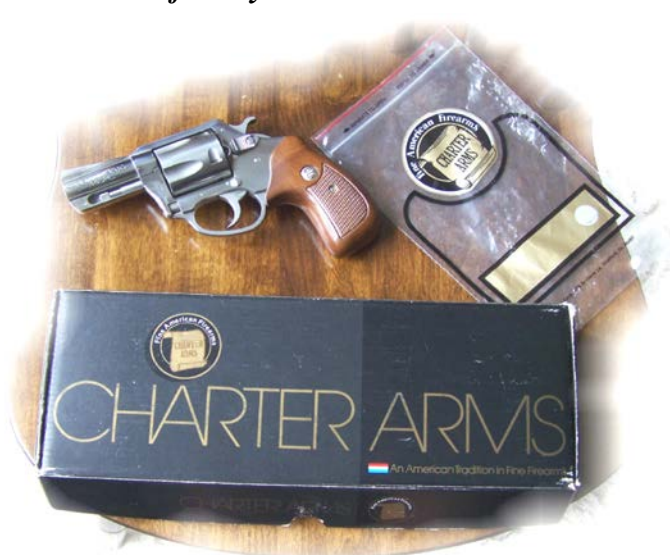
I've compared this revolver with a Bulldog Pug 44 Special that I bought in early 1980.

The Bulldog Pug: Highly polished all stainless, wood grips, fixed sights, cylinder stop on the frame, stainless trigger guard, grooved trigger, no inside crown on muzzle, no chamfered edges on front and back of cylinder, 2.5 inch barrel and weighs 21.6 ounces.

The Bulldog Target: Satin finish stainless, rubber grips, adjustable sight, lacks the cylinder stop on the frame, has an aluminum trigger guard, smooth trigger, crowned inside muzzle, chamfered edges on front and back of cylinder, 4.2 inch barrel and weighs 22.7 ounces.

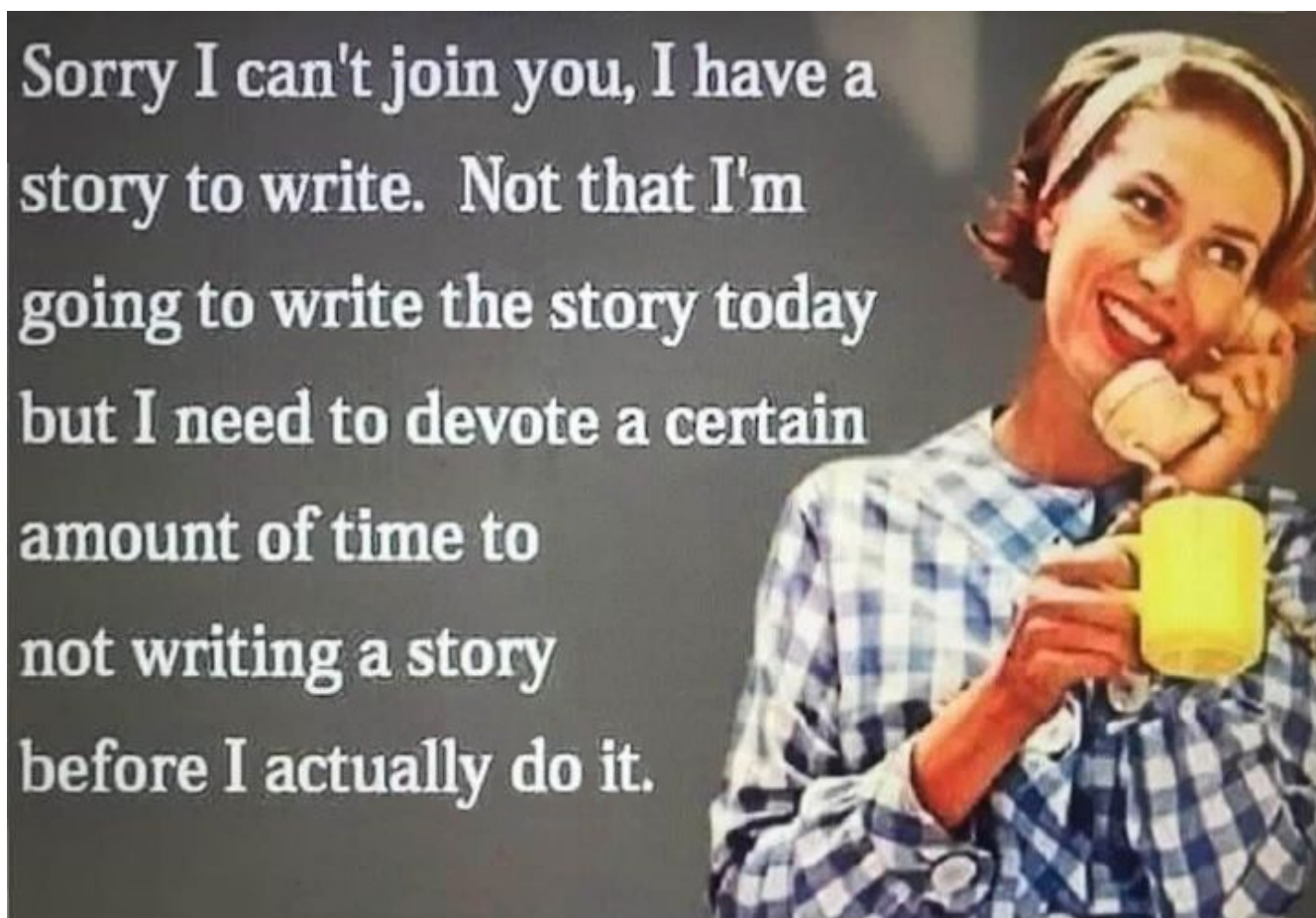
Both of these revolvers show very high quality in fit and finish. When the hammer is cocked in either revolver in single action, there is absolutely no movement in the cylinder – full lock-up.

The wait was definitely worth it!



Writer's Block or "Deadline Avoidance" We've All Experienced It!

Long-time HOW member and past-president Jack Spaulding found this meme on facebook recently, and we are sure it will elicit a familiar response with many HOW members. After all, who hasn't procrastinated and "avoided" writing that column or story, even though the deadline was looming?



Membership Changes and Member Contact Info

The following name represent our newest HOW member. Please make a note of his contact info:

Clint Kowalik: 1698 Hawkins Ct., Greenwood, IN 46143, phone: 217-369-4042,
Email: gofishinwithclint@gmail.com.

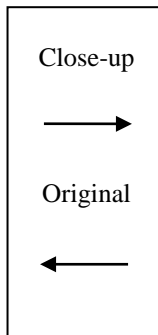
The following HOW members have updated contact information:

Ken McBroom: New address: 624 Jonathan Point Rd., Benton, KY 42025.

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 Hi Mountain Seasonings

The Sora Searches for Food Among Shoreline Vegetation



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was a little tougher than the last one, since it was correctly identified by only seven (7) HOW members. Mike Schoonveld, Phil Seng, Bill Keaton, Mike Lunsford, Troy McCormick, John Maxwell and Dave Hoffman were all able to identify it. We did not have a contest sponsor for the last issue, so everyone that guessed correctly can simply enjoy the fact that they came up with the right answer!

As can be seen in the photo (above), the mystery creature for this issue was a Sora (*Porzana carolina*). Soras are common wetland birds and they are the most abundant rail species in North America. Their bright yellow bill and red eyes stand out when seen up close, but their mottled brown feathers help them melt into the shoreline underbrush where they hunt.

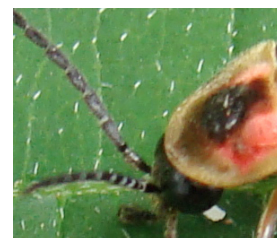
Happily, the sora population has remained stable over the past 50 years, even though they are not often seen by most people. They spend much of their time walking among thick shoreline vegetation like cattails, looking for seeds from aquatic plants. They also eat aquatic insects like mayfly and dragonfly nymphs, water beetles and other wetland invertebrates.

For this issue, our friends at **Hi Mountain Seasonings** 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 two great sausage-making kits from Hi Mountain Seasonings. 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. This one might be pretty tough. The photo shown at right is part of a close-up of a creature that can be found throughout the state of Indiana, and you might even see it in your own back yard. Does it look familiar? Have you ever seen this color pattern before? All nature photos on this page were taken by Tom Berg.



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 butterfly, for example, go ahead and guess “Cabbage Butterfly” (of course, it’s not a butterfly). If you think you know the answer, send an email to me at thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you’re right, you will be entered in this issue’s prize drawing!



As mentioned, **Hi Mountain Seasonings** (www.himtnjerky.com) has donated some great sausage-making kits for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. The winner gets a new Summer Sausage Variety Pack (seasons 45 pounds of meat!) and a Country Style Breakfast Sausage kit. If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw a winner at random from the correct entries.

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 media contact for more information.

Hornady® Receives 2022 Golden Bullseye Award For SUBSONIC Ammunition

Grand Island, NE (June 13, 2022) – Hornady® SUBSONIC has been named the 2022 American Rifleman *Ammunition Product of the Year* as part of the National Rifle Association Publications Golden Bullseye Awards.



The SUBSONIC ammunition line was specifically designed for accuracy and terminal performance below the speed of sound. Unique powders optimized for subsonic use result in a low flash signature and are ideal for either suppressed or unsuppressed performance.

“We couldn’t be more pleased to receive the Golden Bullseye Award for the SUBSONIC line of ammunition” said Jason Hornady, Vice President. “This ammunition is perfect for new and recoil sensitive shooters, or anyone looking to have a quieter shooting experience.”



Now in their 20th year, the NRA Publications Golden Bullseye Awards acknowledge the finest product available in the shooting sports. The winners are selected by a seven-member committee consisting of editors, graphic designers and veteran NRA Publications staff, representing more than a century of collective experience in the shooting and hunting industry.

SUBSONIC offerings are available in select rifle and pistol cartridges. They feature bullets selected to deliver ideal performance for hunting, match shooting and personal protection applications.

To find out more about the SUBSONIC line, please visit <https://www.hornady.com/ammunition/subsonic>.

Media Contact: HOW members may contact Marketing Communications Manager Seth Swerczek at Hornady for more info. He can be reached by phone at: 800-338-3220 ext. 724, or via email: sswerczek@hornady.com.

Founded in 1949, Hornady® Manufacturing Company is a family-owned business headquartered in Grand Island, Nebraska. Proudly manufacturing products that are made in the USA, Hornady® Manufacturing is a world leader in bullet, ammunition, reloading tool, accessory and security product design and manufacturing.

HOW Supporting Member News

CVA's Accura X-Treme Series – The Most Accurate Break-Action Muzzleloaders Ever Made

Lawrenceville, GA – The ACCURA® X-Treme Series, which was all-new in 2021, has two configurations that provide a level of overall performance and ease-of-use that is unequaled by any other break-action muzzleloaders on the market today. Accuracy has always been a given in CVA's ACCURA® series rifles because all are equipped with premium, custom quality Bergara® barrels, which are widely recognized as the most accurate production muzzleloader barrels in the world. The new ACCURA LR-X and MR-X offer features never before seen in production muzzleloaders – like quick take-down design for easy cleaning and compact transport, a carbon-fiber collapsible loading rod that eliminates the accuracy robbing necessity of hanging a ramrod under the barrel, an adjustable comb for perfect eye-to-sight alignment with open sights or optics, fast rifling twists for optimal performance with modern projectiles and propellants, and a threaded muzzle which allows the use of CVA's Paramount Muzzle Brake for magnum charge shooting with minimal recoil. And, most importantly, the new ACCURA LR-X and MR-X are both available in the super-fast and flat shooting .45 caliber, as well as the .50 caliber for states or seasons that require it.



The ACCURA LR-X is our longer barreled ACCURA muzzleloader (the LR stands for “Long Range”), featuring a 30” Nitride treated stainless steel Bergara Barrel. The LR-X is designed for the hunter that wants the extra velocity that longer barrels provide, making longer range shots a bit less difficult due to decreased drops. The .50 cal comes with a BH209 and standard QRBP breech plug. The .45 caliber comes with a BH209 QRBP breech plug only. Perfect for the western plains or midwest bean fields, the ACCURA LR-X is available in Veil™ Wideland camo or Realtree® Hillside™ camo, both with matching Cerakote barrel finishes.



The ACCURA MR-X is our shorter-barreled ACCURA muzzleloader (the MR stands for “Mountain Rifle”) and features a 26” Bergara Barrel in either bare stainless steel or Nitride® treated stainless steel. The MR-X is designed for hunters seeking a rifle that is both light to carry in the mountains and easy to maneuver in tight situations – like thickets or tree stands -- yet still capable of reaching on out there when necessary. The .50 cal comes with a BH209 and standard QRBP breech plug. The .45 caliber comes with a BH209 QRBP breech plug only. The ACCURA MR-X is available in Veil® Alpine™ or Realtree® Rockslide™ camos with matching Cerakote barrel finishes, or a basic black stock with stainless steel.

Media Contact: HOW members may contact Tony Smotherman, Head of Influencer Relations at BPI Outdoors, by phone 615-828-8900 or email: tony@BPIguns.com) for additional info and product images.

HOW Supporting Member News

St. Croix Legend Tournament Bass GRASP Swimbait Rod Wins Best New Freshwater Rod at ICAST 2022

Park Falls, WI – Advancing and showcasing its mission to handcraft the *Best Rods on Earth*® that give anglers the upper hand in any angling situation, St. Croix Rod of Park Falls, Wisconsin unveiled an unprecedented 12 new or completely reengineered rod series at ICAST 2022 in Orlando last week. The 74-year-old family-owned American company was awarded **Best of Category** honors in the **Freshwater Rod** category of the ICAST 2022 New Product Showcase Awards for its Legend Tournament Bass GRASP swimbait models.

The ICAST New Product Showcase Awards recognize the best new fishing products in multiple categories each year. Voted on by attending product buyers and members of the sportfishing media, these “Best of Category” awards represent the pinnacle of achievement in the fishing tackle industry and are fiercely competitive. Winning one of these prestigious awards isn’t easy; it takes good ideas and even better execution to develop a tangible product that helps anglers find more success on the water.

“We’re humbled and honored that those industry professionals who report on or sell fishing tackle for a living selected Legend Tournament Bass GRASP as the best new freshwater rod amidst a packed category, which included 34 other significant new rods from other manufacturers,” says St. Croix CEO, Scott Forristall. “St. Croix is built – top to bottom – to seek out, understand, and serve the needs of anglers; it’s what drives each one of our St. Croix team members every day, so everyone in the St. Croix family feels great pride and a real sense of gratitude for this recognition. Ultimately though, this award is for every angler around the globe who takes as much pride in using a St. Croix fishing rod as we feel in making them.”

The trio of all-new Legend Tournament Bass swimbait models featuring St. Croix’s proprietary GRASP reel seat firmly establishes a new standard in heavy-bass-lure rod design and performance. Designed to excel in the presentation of swimbaits and Alabama rigs from ¾ to 8 ounces, these three all-new swimbait rods bring the newly reimagined Legend Tournament Bass Series to an expansive total of 27 distinct technique-specific high-performance models.



New Legend Tournament Bass swimbait models have the distinction of being the first-ever contemporary St. Croix rods released with proprietary St. Croix-designed componentry – in this case, the all-new St. Croix GRASP reel seat.

“The angler-requested St. Croix GRASP reel seat helps give anglers the upper hand by delivering superior ergonomic control of Legend Tournament Bass swimbait rods during the cast, retrieve, and throughout fight,” says St. Croix Brand Manager, Ryan Teach. GRASP effectively combats the hand and wrist fatigue that commonly sets in

when casting and retrieving heavy lures and doing battle with large, powerful fish. GRASP accomplishes this by always keeping the wrist properly aligned while affording the most comfortable and efficient grip on the rod and casting reel. The result is total control over rod and fish, with less fatigue so anglers can fish longer, harder, and earn more success.

In addition to GRASP’s ergonomic design, its angler interface is sweetened with an extremely durable and tactile SoftTouch coating. “The selection of the proper coating took years of discovery and trial and error, and it’s a big part of what makes GRASP distinct in the marketplace,” Teach says. “The SoftTouch coating we landed on is just as important as the refined geometries that make GRASP a complete and unique design.” The new Legend Tournament GRASP swimbait models will be available to anglers at St. Croix dealers worldwide and at stcroixrodfactorystore.com in October.

Media Contacts: HOW members may contact Josh Lantz or Noel Vick at Traditions Media (Lantz: 219-728-8996 or josh@traditionsmedia.com; Vick: 612-708-7339 or noel@traditionsmedia.com) for more info and product images.

HOW Supporting Member News

Old Salt Angling's *Panfish Candy* Attractant Catches Fish, Not Fishermen

Paul Gocker from Old Salt Angling is an expert when it comes to bait scents. “Our fishing attractants were developed on the shores of Lake Winnebago, Wisconsin,” he said. “They have been extensively tested on many lakes including Lake Winnebago, Green Bay and Lake Erie under all conditions. Our intent was to catch fish (not fisherman). Our attractants should last a whole season with heavy use. I still get as much enjoyment out of fishing and outsmarting fish as I did when my father introduced me to fishing as a little kid. I hope you feel the same way. We offer high quality, effective products that I use personally. They work for me and my hope is they will work for you.”



“We are always trying out new scents to see how fish react to them. The Panfish Candy formula has been tested by eight randomly chosen fishermen/fisherwomen over the last eight months with great results on Lake Winnebago, Green Bay, and numerous smaller Wisconsin lakes. The results surprised us, but fish like what they like and who are we to argue?

So, we decided to introduce Panfish Candy. Perch, crappie and bluegill really seem to love it.”

- Spray on: live bait, lures and flies
- Masks human and plastic odors
- Encourages fish to hold on longer
- Ice fishing friendly
- Tested and proven
- Made by a fisherman for fishermen/fisherwomen
- Shake well before using
- Not for human consumption

“We are fishermen that have a business, not businessmen that fish! And that's a BIG difference,” said Gocker.

Media Contact: HOW members should feel free to contact Paul Gocker at Old Salt Angling with any questions, or for more info or additional product images. His email address is: paul@oldsaltangling.com.
Bluegill photo by Tom Berg.



HOW Supporting Member News

Moultrie® Releases New Micro Traditional Game Camera Series: Compact, Convenient, Easier to Conceal!

Moultrie's new Micro Series cameras offer everything users love about traditional trail cameras in a smaller package. Maintain a minimal footprint and keep an eye on the field without sacrificing quality. Place them anywhere in the woods, including dead zones, or connect with a modem for maximum flexibility. Whether users want to capture wildlife footage, do recon for hunting season, or monitor grounds as part of security measures, these new Micro Series cameras are an excellent solution!

Moultrie Micro-42 Trail Camera Kit

Enjoy ultra-high resolution 42MP images and HD video (1280x720) with a blazing trigger speed and multiple capture modes. Kit includes the Micro-42 game camera clad in Moultrie White Bark™, four AA batteries, and a heavy-duty strap for installation.

- Camera Dimensions: 3.25" W X 3.5" L X 2.625" D
- Resolution: 42 MP
- Trigger Speed: 0.4 Sec.
- Detection Range: 70 FT.
- Flash Range: 100 FT.
- Flash Technology: Long-Range Flash
- Battery Life: 13,000 Images***
- Power Source: 4 X AA Batteries (Included)
- Video Resolution: 1280x720 (No Audio 15 Sec.)
- Motion Detect Delay: 0 Sec./15 Sec./30 Sec./1 Min./5 Min.
- Multi-Shot Mode: 1 Photo, 3 Photo
- Image & Video Aspect Ratio: 16:9
- Decoration: Moultrie White Bark™
- Moultrie Mobile Compatible: Yes When Connected To Modem
- Infostrip Data: Time, Date, Temp F Only, Camera Name (1-9 Characters), Moon Phase
- SD Memory Card: Up To 32 GB (Sold Separately)
- Warranty: Up To 2 Yrs.
- Retail: \$79.99

***Performance specs will vary depending on user settings and environmental conditions



PRADCO Outdoor Brands is a subsidiary of **EBSCO Industries**. The Signature Game & Land Management division includes the following brands: **Moultrie** traditional trail cameras, feeders, and attractants, **Summit** Treestands, **Code Blue** scents, **D/CODE** scent elimination, **Knight & Hale** turkey hunting accessories, **Whitetail Institute** food plot, and **Texas Hunter** feeders/blinds.



Link to Photography:

<https://ebSCO.widencollective.com/portals/g2kytdli/Signature2022Portal>

Link to Site:

<https://www.moultriefeeders.com/moultrie-new-for-2022>

Media Contact: Please contact Hannah Kinderknecht at Pradco Outdoor Brands for more info. She can be reached via email at: hkinderknecht@pradcooutdoorbrands.com.

HOW Supporting Member News



HOW Supporting Members Win Awards at 2022 ICAST Show



Orlando, FL: The 2022 ICAST show (International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades) held in Florida from July 19-22 was another great one, showcasing the products of some of the premier companies in the fishing tackle industry. More than 12,000 industry representatives from the global sportfishing industry attended the show to see the latest innovations in fishing gear, tackle, accessories and apparel. This year, 565 exhibitors entered more than 900 new products into the show's revered New Product Showcase for a chance to be recognized with a "Best of Category" and ultimately the "Best of Show" honor. A total of 30 category winners took home a prestigious prize as the top product in their class.

Just like last year, many of the top new product awards were won by our innovative **HOW Supporting Members**. Here is the list of *Best of Category* category winners from our corporate members:

Boating Accessories

Pure Fishing

Frabill ReCharge, Deluxe Aerator

Contact: [Bailey Eigbrett](#) (Gunpowder, Inc)

Tackle Management

Pure Fishing

Plano EDGE Frog Box

Contact: [Bailey Eigbrett](#) (Gunpowder, Inc)

Freshwater Soft Lure

Pure Fishing

Berkley PowerBait PowerStinger

Contact: [Bailey Eigbrett](#) (Gunpowder, Inc)

Freshwater Rod

St. Croix Rod

Legend Tournament Bass Rod

Contact: [Josh Lantz](#) (Traditions Media)

Fly Reel & Fly Fishing Accessories

Pure Fishing

Hardy Fortuna Regent Saltwater Fly Reel

Contact: [Ethan Burns](#) (Gunpowder, Inc)

Fishing Accessory

Pure Fishing

Frabill WITNESS Weigh Net

Contact: [Bailey Eigbrett](#) (Gunpowder, Inc)

Fishing Line

Pure Fishing

SpiderWire DuraBraid Hi-Vis Yellow

Contact: [Bailey Eigbrett](#) (Gunpowder, Inc)

Freshwater Hard Lure

Pure Fishing

Berkley Slobberknocker

Contact: [Bailey Eigbrett](#) (Gunpowder, Inc)

Saltwater Rod

Pure Fishing

Ugly Stik Carbon Inshore Rod

Contact: [Ethan Burns](#) (Gunpowder, Inc)

Saltwater Reel

Pure Fishing

PENN Authority Spinning Reel

Contact: [Ethan Burns](#) (Gunpowder, Inc)

Congratulations to all of the winners!

For more information on ICAST, check their website:
www.icastfishing.org.



HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Al's Goldfish Company - www.alsgoldfish.com
Alps Brands - www.alpsbrands.com
Aquateko International - www.aquateko.com
Arctic Ice - www.arctic-ice.com
Artrip Float Company - www.artripfloatcompany.com
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Black River Tools - www.blackrivertools.com
Blackbird Products - www.blackbirdproducts.com
BoatUS - www.boatus.com
BOLT Locks - www.boltlock.com
Boomerang Tool Company - www.boomerangtool.com
BPI Outdoors - www.BPIguns.com
Bucket Grip - www.bucketgrip.com
Buff USA - www.buffusa.com
Caldwell - www.caldwellshooting.com
Celox Medical - www.stopbleedingkits.org
Church Tackle Company - www.churchtackle.com
Cocoons Eyewear - www.cocoonseyewear.com
Code Blue Scents - www.codebluescents.com
Daisy Outdoor Products - www.daisy.com
Danco Sports - www.dancopliers.com
Dardevle by Eppinger - www.dardevle.com
Ducks Unlimited - www.ducks.org
Egret Baits - www.egretbaits.com
Falcon Guides - www.falcon.com
Finn Tackle Company - www.finnspoons.com
Fish Monkey Gloves - www.fishmonkeygloves.com
Flying Fisherman - www.flyingfisherman.com
Frogg Toggs - www.froggtoggs.com
Glacier Glove - www.glacierglove.com
Hawke Sport Optics - www.hawkeoptics.com
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - www.henryUSA.com
HHA Sports - www.HHASports.com
Hi Mountain Seasonings - www.himtnjerky.com
Hofmann's Lures - www.hofmannslures.com
Hoosier Trapper Supply - www.hoosiertrappersupply.com
Hornady Manufacturing - www.hornady.com
Howard Leight Shooting Sports - www.howardleight.com
HT Enterprises - www.htent.com
Indiana Destination Development Corporation - www.visitindiana.com
Lawrence County Tourism - limestonecountry.com
LensPen - www.lenspen.com
Looter Lure - www.looterlure.com
Mack's Lure - www.mackslure.com
Mathews Archery - www.mathewsinc.com
MEC Outdoors - www.mecoutdoors.com
Mongo Attachments - www.mongoattachments.com
Moultrie Trail Cameras - www.moultriefeeders.com
National Shooting Sports Foundation - www.nssf.org
National Wild Turkey Federation - www.nwtf.org
Norsemen Outdoors - www.norsemenoutdoors.com
Nothead Tackle - www.notheadtackle.com
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - www.mossberg.com
Old Salt Angling - www.oldsaltangling.com
Otis Technology - www.otistec.com
Outdoor Sportsman Group - www.outdoorsg.com
PahaQue Wilderness - www.pahaque.com
Plano Synergy - www.planomolding.com
Pro-Cure Bait Scents - www.pro-cure.com
Pure Fishing - www.purefishing.com
Quaker Boy Game Calls - www.quakerboygamecalls.com
Rapala VMC - www.rapala.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
Roeslein Alternative Energy - www.roeslein.com
Seaguar Fishing Lines - www.seaguar.com
Shooter's Choice - www.shooters-choice.com
Sierra Bullets - www.sierrabullets.com
Smith's Products - www.smithsproducts.com
South Shore CVA - www.southshorecva.com
Speedhook Specialists - www.speedhook.com
Sporting Classics - www.sportingclassics.com
Spro Corporation - www.spro.com
Spypoint Trail Cameras - www.spypoint.com
St. Croix Rods - www.stcroixrods.com
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - www.ruger.com
Summit Treestands - www.summitstands.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
Tick Terminator - www.thetickterminator.com
Toyota Motor Sales - www.toyotanewsroom.com
Traditions Media - www.traditionsmedia.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - www.ttblakemore.com
Van Vuuren African Safaris - www.vvasafaris.com
Vexilar, Inc. - www.vexilar.com
White Flyer Targets - www.whiteflyer.com
Whitetails Unlimited - www.whitetailsunlimited.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:

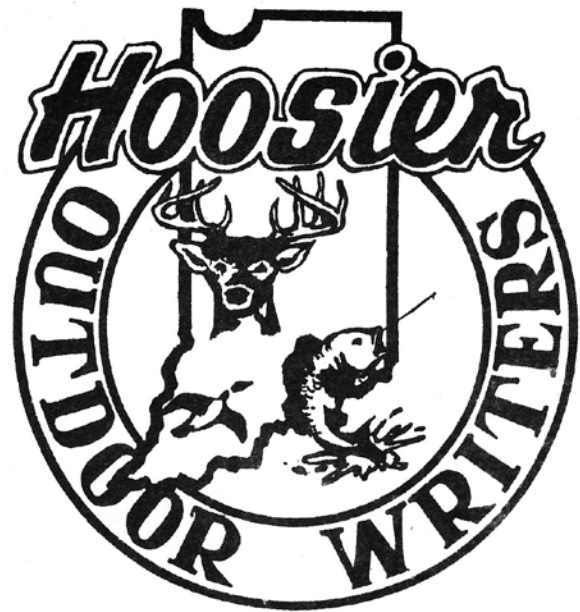
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor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

ICAST Show 2022:

(www.ICASTfishing.org)

Orlando, FL

July 19-22, 2022

AGLOW 2022 Annual Conference:

(www.aglowinfo.org)

Chateau on the Lake Resort
Branson, MO

September 19-22, 2022

Indianapolis Fall Boat & RV Show:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

September 23-25, 2022

Fur Takers Chapter 7B Fall Rendezvous:

(www.hoosiertrappersupply.com)

Held at Hoosier Trapper Supply
Greenwood, IN

September 24, 2022

Ford Cincinnati Boat, Sport & Travel Show:

(www.CincySportShow.com)

Cincinnati, OH

January 20-22 & 25-29, 2023

Cincinnati Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo:

(www.CincySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

January 27-29, 2023

Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

February 17-19 & 22-26, 2023

Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

February 23-26, 2023

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*.