

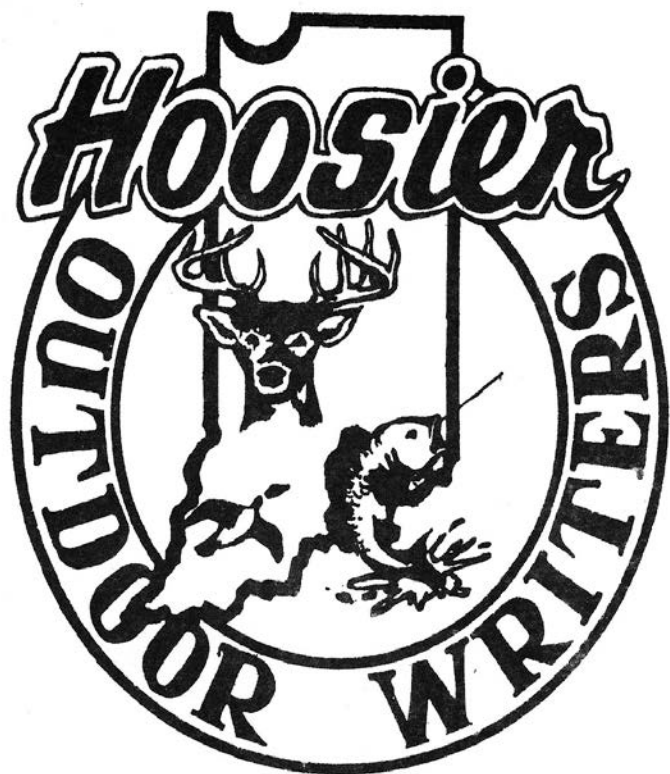
The Blade

September - October 2025

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Whitetail Deer - Always Vigilant", 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: Two whitetail deer stand at the edge of a picked cornfield in Indiana and are on the alert for danger. Each deer is straining its eyes, ears and nose in an attempt to identify any threats and still have time to retreat to safety. Photo by Tom Berg.

President's Message

by Marilyn Culler

Looking for a Game Changer



“Game changer.” We’ve probably all had those pivotal moments in our lives when something we’ve been trying to accomplish just “clicks.” After that, the game changes. For fly anglers, flies float more gently onto the surface of the water. Lines are tight. Fish bite.

Recently I had the chance to chat with Blane Chocklett, whose “Game Changer” articulated streamers take the fly tying game to a visionary level.

As we talked about his creative process, Chocklett had the beginnings of a Game Changer in his hands. He was carefully sculpting the head to get the right profile and intricate movement. “How are you going to catch the fish? Solve the problem,” he said! “Great designs come from problem solving. Flies didn’t have triggering – they needed to resemble real baitfish. Results come from thinking about it for a long period of time – weeks, months, years. I let it marinate in my mind until I have that ‘aha’ moment. I’ve been blessed with a very creative mind and time on the water.”

“I’m not afraid of failing because that’s how you learn things,” says Chocklett. “I have to design materials to get the result I want. That’s been my whole career.” He has created his own line of materials, hooks, shanks, rattle boxes and patterns. His 3D Bug Wings emulate Damsel and Dragon flies and other insects. Changers are as short as ½-inch and “long enough to fillet and fry.” He once tied a 17-inch Game Changer for a client.

The name “Game Changer” came about organically. Chocklett showed his design to a mentor and commented, “This is gonna be a game changer in my tying and guiding career.” His friend convinced him to use the name “Game Changer,” although he hesitated at first. “It sounds cocky, but I’m glad I decided to keep it. It resonates and performs like that.”

Chocklett reflected on his early career with humility. “Probably the best part has been the people that helped, the heroes I’ve met who are now friends.” He speaks fondly of mentors like Lefty Kreh, Larry Dahlberg, Steve Hiner and others who were kind to him. Chocklett is now mentoring young people. “We have to do that,” he says. “You can’t be in it for the ‘likes’ (on social media). Lefty was our ‘internet’ back in the day, connecting people. Dahlberg and others changed the game in their era.”

“You have to have something special or be diverse to make a living, a career. You have to have curiosity and go after it.” Chocklett’s online store, The Chocklett Factory (blanechocklett.shop), sells Changers and tying materials. Some products are available at Moving Water Outfitters (a HOW Supporting Member).

“He’s been guiding since the 90’s, and just found a place for himself,” Matt Nuttall of Moving Water Outfitters says of Chocklett’s products. “From nothing in your hand to fish in your hand, he’s developed all of it. He’s humble, and he does not need to be humble. He’s a really good person – the epitome of not having an ego.”

Chocklett is out to catch fish, and continues to create as he pushes the sport forward. I have a hard time finding one word to describe the inventor of the “Game Changer.” Engineer. Artist. Entrepreneur. Naturalist. Guide. Mentor. My takeaway: he’s on the move, changing the game of fly fishing. He’s making it all work, and a big reason, along with his creativity, is his humble, kind, giving nature. “The greatest in our sport are the kindest people,” Chocklett said.

“Fly fishing is very personal,” said Nuttall. The ‘game changer’ for me, as I explore the world of fly fishing, has been the genuine, kind, down-to-earth people I’ve met. The bonus is catching a fish or two. Maybe next time the fish will be a little bigger.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents and Memorial Section

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

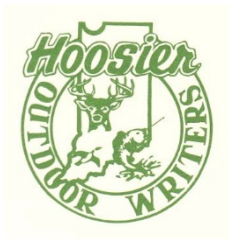
No new members for this issue.
See Member News Section
starting on page 14.

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

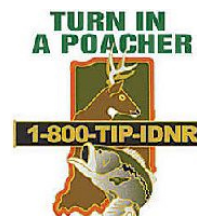
Jack Alkire – HOW President 1979
Bill Beeman – Executive Director Emeritus
 Don Bickel
 Ed Blann
 Charlie Brown
 Gary Carden
Jim “Moose” Carden – HOW President 1982-83
 George Carey
 John Case
Bill Church – HOW President 1972
 Gene Clifford
 Jack “Big Jake” Cooper
 Mark Cottingham
Larry Crecelius – HOW President 2003
 Jerry Criss
 Gary “Dox” Duxtater
 Dick Forbes
Tom Glancy – HOW President 1977
 Dale Griffith
 Phil Hawkins
 Fred Heckman
Marty Jaranowski – HOW President 1996
Phil Junker – HOW President 1975+2002
 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
 George Tilford
 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 “Cork” 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
Phil Seng	2022
Jarrett Manek	2023
Bob Sawtelle	2024



Hoosier Outdoor Writers Turn in a Poacher/Polluter Writing Contest Official 2025 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 and the hotline. This year prizes are again **\$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 compelling story that demonstrates how TIP can help conserve or protect fish and wildlife for the people of Indiana.
- Are published in paid publications.

To enter, submit an electronic copy of an article published between **January 1, 2025** and **December 31, 2025**. 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, 2026.

What is TIP?

Turn in a Poacher and Polluter, 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. Pollution kills Indiana's valuable fish and wildlife resources and harms habitat.

Citizens can help stop poachers and polluters in two ways. If you see, hear or learn about a poacher or pollution that results in the death of fish and wildlife, or any other fish and wildlife violation:

- Call 1-800-TIP-IDNR
- Submit a TIP online at www.tip.IN.gov

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>

HOW Conference Announcement

2026 Conference Site And Conference Dates Chosen

We made this announcement in a recent email, but we are repeating it again (especially since a couple of our members don't use email). The Hoosier Outdoor Writers group is pleased to announce that the 2026 HOW Conference will be held at the Potawatomi Inn inside Pokagon State Park, near Angola, IN. The conference will take place on the weekend of April 10-12, 2026, with the main meeting occurring on Saturday, April 11th.



The date of this conference was chosen very carefully to minimize conflicts with Easter, Mother's Day, turkey season and other spring events, so hopefully most HOW members will be able to plan their schedules ahead of time so they can attend. Be sure to mark your calendars today and **SAVE THE DATE!**

As usual, we are planning to have plenty of interesting seminars and speakers at this conference. We will also announce the winners of our annual awards-in-craft contests and elect new officers.



A view of the Potawatomi Inn inside beautiful Pokagon State Park.

For everyone who has come to love the HOW Raffle over the past several years, we are planning to make it even bigger and better this year. It will be hard to top the quality and quantity of the last couple of years, but we will do our best! If you haven't attended a conference recently, come see what it's all about!

More details will be forthcoming in future editions of *The Blade*. If you have never been to Pokagon State Park, you owe it to yourself to visit next spring.

Whether you plan to attend the entire weekend or just the annual meeting on Saturday, the trip to northeast Indiana will definitely be worth it.

Don't miss next year's 2026 HOW conference in beautiful northeast Indiana!

Save The Date!
Conference: April 10-12, 2026
Annual Meeting: April 11, 2026



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 member and bird aficionado Mike Lunsford says his birding this past spring was relatively slow; the heat and humidity seeming to cut spring short and make great bird sightings a rarity all summer. The warmest and most uncomfortable day of late spring found Mike and his daughter, Ellen, walking the JI Case Wetlands east of Terre Haute. Although he spotted plenty of warblers flitting among the branches, few gave him good photo opportunities, but a common **Song Sparrow** (*Melospiza melodia*) proved to be a different story.

Only through his viewfinder could Lunsford see the bird had been banded, and a day later he contacted local ornithologist Peter Scott. Scott put Lunsford in contact with Indiana State University Biology professor, Dr. Andrea Grunst, who told Mike that she and a team of students are conducting research on song sparrow reproduction and behavior at the wetlands; she or someone on the team had banded the bird just that spring.



Lunsford also photographed another bird



Above: A song sparrow stops for a moment on a branch, with its multi-colored leg band in full view.

Left: A hermit thrush poses for a quick photograph.

for this page, and although it is not a rare bird, he said it was his favorite sighting all spring and summer: a reclusive **Hermit Thrush** (*Catharus guttatus*). He spotted it at Celery Bog in West Lafayette.

Hermit thrushes are notoriously private birds that stick to the underbrush, so Lunsford felt he was very lucky to have caught the bird in good light. “Thrushes have one of the most beautiful voices in the woods,” Lunsford said, “and this one was quite photogenic, too.”

See the next page for more bird photos and information.



Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

Bird Reports Continued...

Report from Dave Hoffman:

HOW member Dave Hoffman recently submitted this birding report:

"I took the photo below near Sarasota, Florida, at one of our favorite birding locations," commented Hoffman. "It is a **Nanday Parakeet** (*Aratinga nenday*). This bird hails from central South America and has well-established populations in central and southern Florida. I observed a flock of roughly a hundred of them on the day this photo was taken."

"Surprisingly, the Florida Ornithological Society recognized nanday parakeets as a 'Resident Species' twenty years ago! They're commonly seen in Miami, Tampa Bay and along the southeastern coast!"

Nanday parakeets might be residents of Florida now, but they are not a native species. It is believed that caged pets were released over time and feral populations became established and flourished in Florida's warm climate. Even so, they are interesting-looking birds!



Hoffman also sent this nice photo of a **Red-Eyed Vireo** (*Vireo olivaceus*) shown at left. "It occurred to me that I'd never captured a respectable photo of a red-eyed vireo," he said, "although they are one of the most abundant birds in North America! Their simple refrain can often be heard incessantly from atop deciduous trees, but getting a decent 'red eye' shot wasn't possible until I visited the Namekagon Barrens in Wisconsin."

"Sandy soils as thick as 100-600 feet from the last glacier yielded a unique pine/oak barrens community that is a fire-dependent ecosystem of prairie flora and fauna. The Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area is over 6,000 acres of rare habitat divided into two units in parts of Burnett and Washburn counties. It's a birder's paradise of songbirds, waterfowl and shorebird species."

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 hear your birding stories and see your exciting bird pictures.

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 other members to enjoy!

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

For immediate release: September 9, 2025

Indiana Tree Recognized as the Largest of its Species in the Nation

A swamp chestnut oak tree in Jennings County has been recognized as the largest of the species in the country by the [National Champion Tree program](#), with a height of 95 feet, a circumference of 318 inches, and a canopy spread of 118 feet.

The record swamp chestnut oak is on the family farm owned by Richard and Kris Schepman outside of Crothersville. Today, Governor Mike Braun and Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) leaders presented the Schepmans with a certificate recognizing their family's stewardship of this impressive tree.

"Over the last century, Indiana's forested land has substantially grown as a result of Hoosiers' conservation work and responsible stewardship," said Governor Braun. "The Schepman family and private landowners across the state deserve high praise for their commitment to growing healthy trees like this giant in Jennings County, which I hope continues to stand tall for generations of future Hoosiers to enjoy."

The DNR Division of Forestry, which maintains a list of Indiana's largest known tree of each of the state's native species, notified the national program of the tree, and its record score of 442.5, which is the tree's height (feet), circumference (inches), and canopy spread (feet, multiplied by 0.25) added together.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, the swamp chestnut oak is native to "the Atlantic Coastal Plain from New Jersey and extreme eastern Pennsylvania, south to north Florida, and west to east Texas; it is found north in the Mississippi River Valley to extreme southeast Oklahoma, Arkansas, southeastern Missouri, southern Illinois, southern Indiana, and locally to southeast Kentucky and eastern Tennessee."

The tree is on private property, so it is not available for public viewing. Indiana's current state champion trees, which are updated when a notification of a larger tree is received, are posted at on.IN.gov/big-tree, where you can also learn how to measure trees and enter those you think may qualify.

Media contact:

Jacob Roos, DNR Forestry, phone:
317-234-4386, email: jroos@dnr.IN.gov.



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

For immediate release: October 1, 2025

Bonus Antlerless Bag Limits Lowered in Seven Southern Indiana Counties

Because of the impact of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) on the deer herd in southern Indiana this year, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is reducing the county antlerless bag limits in Bartholomew, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Martin, Scott, and Switzerland counties.

Jennings County's antlerless bag limit is reduced from four antlerless deer to two antlerless deer for the upcoming hunting season. Jackson, Scott, and Jefferson counties' antlerless bag limit is reduced from four antlerless deer to three antlerless deer per county for the upcoming hunting season. Bartholomew, Martin, and Switzerland counties' antlerless bag limit is reduced from three antlerless deer to two antlerless deer per county for the upcoming hunting season.

The statewide antlerless bag limit remains six antlerless deer. Changes to the county antlerless bag limit will not affect the Deer Reduction Zones. For more information on the county antlerless bag limit reduction, see on.IN.gov/EHD-quotas.

Humans are not at risk for contracting EHD.

EHD is a viral disease that commonly affects white-tailed deer and is transmitted by biting midges, aka "no-see-ums." Cases typically occur during late summer and early fall, and there is evidence that outbreaks can be more severe in years when there is a wet spring followed by a hot, dry summer. EHD is often fatal to deer, but some can recover and develop immunity.

Deer infected with EHD may display unusual behaviors such as lethargy, excessive salivation, or disorientation. EHD also causes fever in deer, which can cause them to seek water. As a result, many deer that die from EHD are found in or near open water sources like ponds and rivers. Anyone who finds a deer that is showing signs of EHD or dead in water is asked to report it at on.IN.gov/sickwildlife.

DNR monitors for EHD annually; however, the severity of EHD in a single year depends on weather, immunity, location, and other factors. The effects of EHD will be evaluated after deer hunting season, and additional changes will be considered for the 2026 –2027 hunting season. EHD detections can be continually monitored at on.IN.gov/EHD.

Media contact:

Joe Caudell, Deer Biologist, DNR Fish & Wildlife, email: jcaudell@dnr.IN.gov, phone: 812-822-3300.

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

For immediate release: October 14, 2025

Hoosiers Can Help Put a Stop to Poaching

Indiana Conservation Officers encourage Hoosiers to help the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) put an end to poaching by reporting potential violations to Turn In a Poacher, Inc. (TIP).

TIP is a nonprofit conservation organization that partners with DNR to protect 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 all Hoosiers. DNR manages wildlife for everyone, and every person can help TIP support DNR efforts by reporting potential violations at 1-800-TIP-IDNR (800-847-4367) or tip.IN.gov. Doing so will help conserve wildlife for future generations.

Call TIP if you see, hear, or learn about poaching or another violation regarding fish and wildlife. If your “TIP” leads to an arrest, you may receive as much as a \$500 reward, or you can remain anonymous if you choose. In 2024, TIP received 1,025 tips and paid thousands of dollars in rewards for tips that led to the arrest of a suspect.

“Our citizens are key in the fight to help stop poaching in Indiana. They are a main reason why the Indiana TIP program has been successful in bringing those who violate fish and wildlife laws to justice,” said Col. Steve Hunter, director of DNR Law Enforcement.

To view all DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

Media contact:

Captain Jet Quillen, DNR Law Enforcement
Phone: 317- 903-1671, email: jquillen@dnr.IN.gov.

Turn in a Poacher

Turn in a Polluter



There is More Than Corn in ... Kansas

by Tom Berg

There is more than corn in Indiana. Wait – There is more than corn in Kansas, too!

Earlier this summer I made a road trip to southeast Kansas. Have you ever been to Kansas? I had driven through Kansas multiple times over the years on my way out west, but never took the time to stop and explore this beautiful state. It is a long drive from northern Indiana, but I'm glad I finally took the time and made the trip.

Jim Zaleski, a longtime friend and former Hoosier from Hammond, rolled out the red carpet for my wife Lori and I on this trip. Jim is the director of economic development for the city of Parsons, Kansas, and he is also the tourism director for Labette County, Kansas. Although he grew up in Indiana, he moved out of state many years ago and now Parsons is his home.

When I arrived in Labette County, I had fishing on my mind (imagine that). But I was also planning to do some birding, hiking and sightseeing. Luckily, the heat wave that gripped the area a week before we arrived was gone and temps were very pleasant!

We stayed at the fairly new Holiday Inn Express & Suites right off US-400 while we were in town. It was very nice and is located right next to Tolen Creek Park, which features walking trails, a large fishing pond, an 18-hole disc golf course, and two large stone sculptures by famed artist Stan Herd. It was the perfect base of operations for our trip.

Fishing was number one on my list, so Jim suggested that we visit the nearby Mined Land Wildlife Area and fish some of the strip pits there. Managed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, the Mined Land

Wildlife Area is comprised of more than 14,000 acres and includes hundreds of strip pit lakes and ponds. They range in size from ¼ acre to 50 acres, and some feature water depths of up to 60 feet.

These strip pits were created between the 1920s and the early 1970s when coal mining was going on in southeast Kansas. There was some lead and zinc mining, too, but most of the mining operations were targeting the large coal seams in the area. More than 1,000 strip pits were left behind, and many are stocked with gamefish, including largemouth bass, rainbow trout, walleye, channel catfish, bluegills and sunfish.

Jim picked me up at the hotel and we drove to one of his favorite pits. This particular strip pit is stocked with rainbow trout, and he has made some excellent trout catches here over the years. There are also some



Jim Zaleski fishes from shore at one of the strip pits in the Mined Land Wildlife Area. Photo by Tom Berg.

bragging-sized largemouth bass, catfish and an assortment of panfish.

Fog was rising from the water as we got set up to fish. Jim baited a slip bobber with a lively nightcrawler and cast it out into deep water. I decided to start with a small Mepps Aglia spinner and probed the nearshore shallows and weedbeds with it. I quickly caught an undersized largemouth bass and a feisty green sunfish. Both fish were quickly released. My next catch was a surprise: a juvenile crappie. Jim commented that he had

(continued on next page)

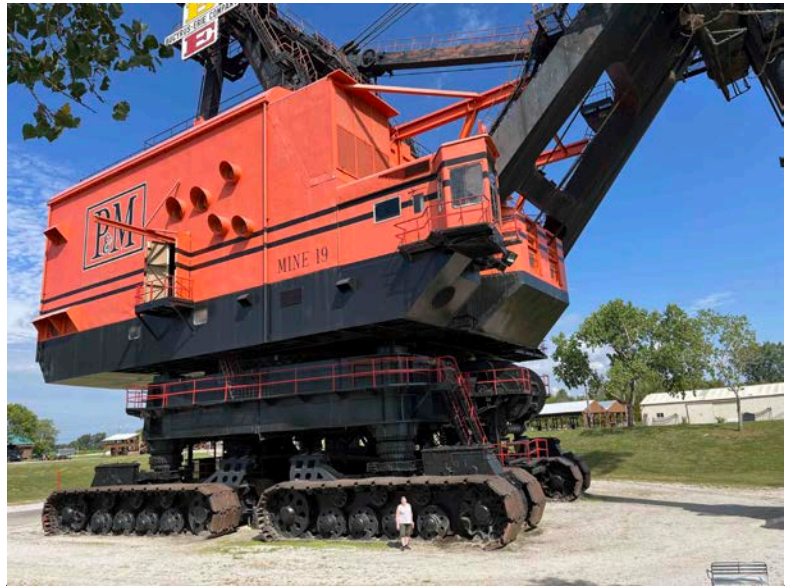
never seen a crappie come out of this particular pit before.

The trout were not cooperating with Jim in the deep water and I was not finding any larger bass, so we decided to move to another pit. That's part of the charm of the Mined Land strip pit lakes – if the fish are not biting in one lake it is easy to move on to another.

We got our gear situated along the bank of another small strip pit, and noticed that two men were launching a small aluminum boat from the ramp at the other side of the lake, which was actually only a short distance away from us. Although both of the pits that we fished were popular with local anglers, those two men were the only other fishermen we saw that morning.

I decided to switch to a simple redworm to see what I could catch on it. Jim opted to throw a Senko for bass. I immediately started catching bluegills, but they were all relatively small. I wasn't planning to keep any fish anyway, so it did not matter too much to me. I just love catching fish! I moved farther down the shoreline and caught a slightly larger redear sunfish. Then another one. And another. Suddenly I seemed to be surrounded by sunfish! None were large, however, and after catching several of them we decided to head back to the hotel and then go out to lunch.

On the way back to Parsons, we drove past Big Brutus and the Big Brutus Museum. Big Brutus is an absolutely gigantic earth-moving machine. In fact, it is the largest electric shovel in the world. It was used in the 1960s and 1970s to mine coal in this area, and it is responsible for



Above: Big Brutus is the largest electric shovel in the world. It is no longer in operation and has been turned into a museum. Lori Berg can be seen standing next to its treads to show the size of this massive machine. **Below Left:** Tom Berg stands in front of Big Brutus' enormous bucket.



creating many of the strip pit lakes in the Mined Land Area.

The next day, Lori and I drove back out to see the Big Brutus Museum and Big Brutus itself, and it was very impressive. The bucket which scooped dirt and coal was so big that three pickup trucks could fit inside it! Lori and I climbed up inside the massive machine, too, and the huge scale of everything inside was amazing. Even though it is basically located out in the middle of nowhere, there were a lot of people there when we visited and the parking lot was full!

There are several good restaurants in Parsons, and we tried a few of them during our stay. The Kitchen Pass Restaurant and Bar is excellent for either lunch or dinner (just keep in mind it

is closed on weekends). One day we had dinner at Ballers Sports Bar and Grill and ordered their famous chicken fried steak, which was outstanding. We also highly recommend Taco Mayo for great Mexican food.

We experienced a lot more during our trip, including more fishing, but that will have to wait for a future issue! If you decide to make your own trip to the Parsons area, be sure to explore the chamber of commerce's website at: <https://www.parsonschamber.org/> to discover additional ideas and find out about upcoming local events.

HOW Member News

Alan Garbers Produces Outstanding Nostalgic Photos for His Magazine Articles

HOW Past President Alan Garbers loves writing magazine articles about the ‘Old West’, and he especially likes writing about many of the historic firearms from that era. To help illustrate his articles,



he provides the magazine editors with an assortment of props and fine photos to go with his writings. He has become very good at creating those photos, too!

“I took great pains in making the photos the way I thought would be interesting to readers and viewers,” he said. “I keep an eye out for cool props at yard sales. I bought some old stock certificates, printed out pages from old newspapers, and even made my own reproduction ammo boxes for some of the photos.”

“I was able to make the reproduction ammunition boxes by downloading photos of ammo boxes that were

photographed straight on, then arranging them in MS Paint or MS Word. That allowed me to make a box when cut out. I had to do some experimenting to get the dimensions correct, then they were printed on a color printer.”



“In some cases, I bought specialty paper to provide the ‘old-looking’ background. On one, I added a piece of twine because the boxes originally were opened by pulling the twine to rip the cardboard. The last one I made just required a new label to replicate the original label. In most cases, I placed a block of wood inside each box to make sure they didn’t get damaged when stored. I sometimes buy old ammo boxes at gun shows if they aren’t too overpriced.”



Berg Wins Spypoint Trail Camera Contest

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg recently attended the AGLOW (Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers) annual conference which was held in Eau Claire, Wisconsin in late September. Before the conference, our friends at Spypoint sent a free Flex-S-Dark cellular trail camera to the first twenty-five AGLOW members to register for the conference. Berg was one of those early registrants.

The idea was for members to gather some cool photos and/or videos with the cameras before the conference, and then send them in to Cara Fox at Spypoint for a fun photo contest. A panel of judges at Spypoint would then review and evaluate them. The most amazing, creative, or unforgettable photo would win a prize. Cara Fox said "Don't be afraid to think outside the box – these don't need to be your typical wildlife captures, but they can be."

Berg set up his camera one night and enlisted the aid of his son Mark, and this is the photo they created. It is titled: **Bigfoot in Indiana!** This photo was the winner!



Remember, Punctuation Can Save Lives!

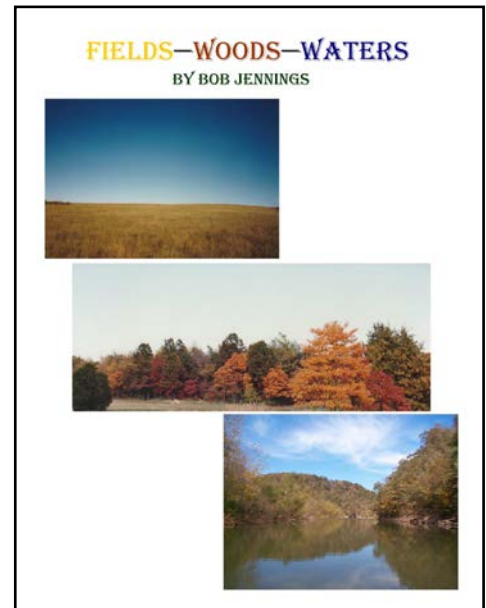
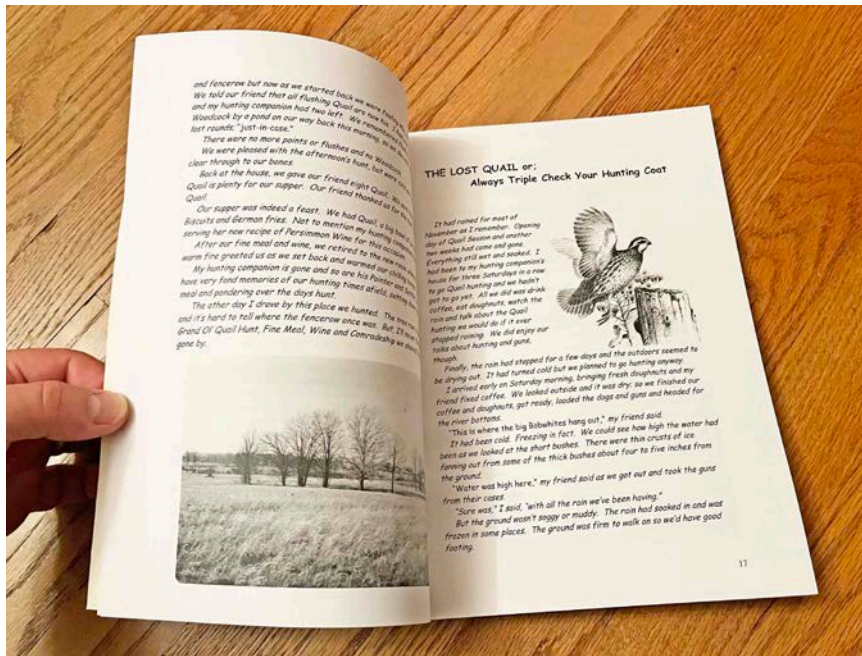
The placement of a simple comma can drastically change the meaning of a sentence, sometimes with hilarious or dark consequences.

- "Let's eat, grandma!" vs. "Let's eat grandma!"
- "I like cooking, my family, and my pets." vs. "I like cooking my family and my pets."
- "I'm sorry, I love you." vs. "I'm sorry I love you."

Jennings Completes Another Book

Longtime HOW member Bob Jennings from Worthington, IN has recently self-published another book. This latest work of his is titled **“Fields – Woods – Waters”** and is available as a softcover book.

“This new book is a composite of a lot of my hunting and fishing adventures in places where I have lived, and in other states besides Indiana,” said Jennings. “I tell of my wild bird hunting with a good friend, hunting over his pointers and hunting alone with my Gordon setter. A little humor is injected here and there, too.”



“I also included a little fictional tale of Santa leaving me the stained glass musky panel, but the rest of the tales are true; nothing really unbelievable, but maybe they will bring back memories of some outdoor adventures that you’ve had.”

Jennings is offering signed copies of this book to any HOW member for a special price of \$30. Feel free to contact him via email at: jenningsr500@gmail.com.

McCormick Competes in Minelab Event

HOW Past President Troy McCormick loves metal detecting, and he participated in a special metal detecting event here in Indiana in late-September. “I was part of a 3-man metal detecting team at the Minelab, ‘Masters of Metal’ competition in Kirklin, IN,” he said. “There were four challenges including Target ID, Token Challenge, Claim Jumper and Panning for Gold.”

“The first place team received \$2,500, second place got \$1,500, and third place received a check for \$1,100. We missed third place by only two points and came in fourth.”

“This was some extremely challenging and frustrating metal detecting. Very tough, timed events. But we had a lot of fun and met a lot of new, and old, friends.”

“Congratulations to the three teams that received prizes and checks. But watch out for team Indiana Unearthed #1 next year (Troy McCormick, Adam Combs and Chris Wildolf).”



Mike Lunsford Wins Prestigious “Best of Show” Award

HOW Board Member Mike Lunsford is no stranger when it comes to winning photography awards at a variety of art exhibits, and he was recently honored with the "Best of Show" award at the annual Covered Bridge Art Association Fall Open Show in downtown Rockville, Indiana.

His winning entry was a black-and-white photo titled "Morning Coffee." Lunsford is shown at the awards program on September 28 with the show's judge, Nancy Nichols-Pethick, Professor of Art at Indiana State University.

The winning black-and-white photo is shown on the wall behind them.



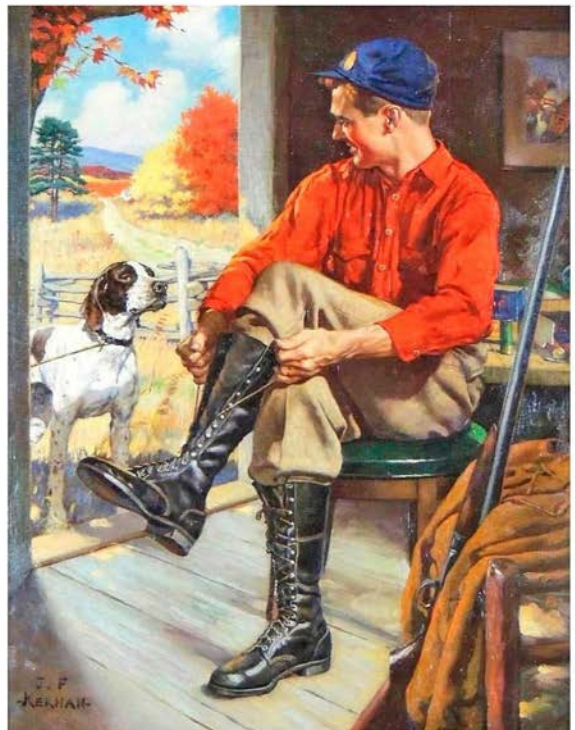
HOW Members Can Relate to Robert Ruark

Many HOW members have dogs (or used to have dogs) that are true members of the family. The quote below from Robert Ruark's book *The Old Man and the Boy* really hits home, especially for HOW members who love bird hunting and have/had a beloved bird dog. The nostalgic photo is cool, too.

If a man is really smart, there's practically
nothing a good dog can't teach him.

Robert Ruark

The Old Man and the Boy



HOW Members Win 2025 TOWA EIC Awards

The TOWA Excellence in Craft awards ceremony was held during the annual meeting of the Tennessee Outdoor Writers Association at the famed Blue Bank Resort on Tennessee's Reelfoot Lake on October 27, 2025. TOWA's best writers, photographers and broadcasters were recognized for their outstanding work, and two of our very own HOW members were among the winners. Congrats to Richard Hines and Tom Berg! Here are the pertinent contest details:

Best Magazine Article

1st Place – Richard Hines
Hunting Sandhill Cranes

Best Radio/TV Broadcast/Podcast

1st Place – Richard Hines
Willie Outdoor – Flyfishing

Best Published B&W Photography

2nd Place – Tom Berg
Smallmouth Bass at the Boat
3rd Place – Tom Berg
Southern Indiana Slabs

Best Unpublished B&W Photography

2nd Place – Tom Berg
White Pelican Gathering

Congratulations!

Best Conference Site Story

1st Place – Richard Hines
Dropping Ducks with a Slingshot: The True Story of Slingshot Charlie Taylor

HOW Members Win 2025 AGLOW AIC Awards

The AGLOW Awards in Craft ceremony was held during the annual meeting of the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers in Eau Claire, Wisconsin on September 25, 2025. AGLOW's best of the best in the outdoor communications industry were recognized for their outstanding work, and one of our very own HOW members was among the winners. Congrats to Tom Berg! Here are the contest details on his winning entries:

Best of Publishing

2nd Place – Tom Berg
The Blade, July-August 2024 Edition
3rd Place – Tom Berg
The Blade, September-October 2024 Edition

Best of Photography / Outdoor Recreation

2nd Place – Tom Berg
Bird Watchers Find Common Merganser Family

Best of Electronic Blog / Fishing

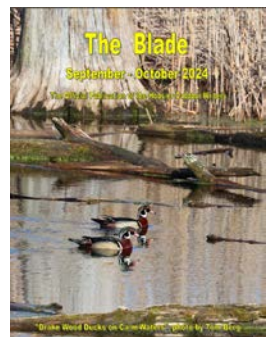
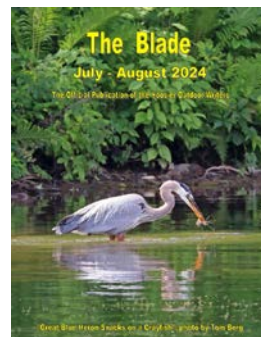
3rd Place – Tom Berg
The Multi-Colored Striped Shiner

Best of Electronic Blog / Open

3rd Place – Tom Berg
The Surf Scoter, Sea Duck of the North

You might notice that our HOW publication, *The Blade*, was recognized in the **Best of Publishing** category above. It is a great honor to have the HOW newsletter awarded second and third place in the prestigious AGLOW AIC competition.

*Congratulations to all
Of the contest winners!*



Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors

Sponsored by Pure Fishing

The Squash Vine Borer Moth – Nemesis to Gardeners!



Close-up



Original



The “What is it?” photo from the previous issue was harder than some recent ones, since it was correctly identified by only four (4) HOW members. Brandon

Butler, Troy McCormick, Alan Garbers and John Maxwell were all able to identify it. When we drew

a name at random for the **Norsemen Outdoors** ESP graphite fishing rod, John Maxwell was the lucky winner. Congrats, John! We will get the prize to you.

As can be seen in the photo to the left, the mystery creature for this issue was a Squash Vine Borer Moth (*Melittia cucurbitae*). These moths, called SVB moths for short, usually appear in Indiana in late-June or early July, and they are despised by anyone who grows squash plants like zucchini. SVB moths are black and reddish-orange in color, with shiny black antennae. The adult moths lay

eggs on the main vine stem of squash plants, and the larvae that hatch bore into the stem and develop inside. As they grow, they block the flow of water and nutrients to the rest of the plant and the plant often dies.

Gardeners can prevent SVB from attacking their plants in a few ways. Chemical insecticides are effective, but they are not the best choice. Planting certain flowers like marigolds and nasturtiums can help in repelling these moths, and other plants like onion, basil, mint and parsley are known to deter SVB, too. You can also wrap the stems of your plants with tinfoil to keep the larvae from boring into them.

For this issue, our friends at **Pure Fishing** have donated a very nice prize package for the HOW member who is able to guess the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be a Pure Fishing bundle including an Abu Garcia rod/reel combo, a Plano waterproof tacklebox and an assortment of great Berkley fishing lures. See below for additional info.



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 at certain times of the year, and you might even see it in your own back yard. Does it look familiar? Have you ever seen this color pattern when spending time outdoors?



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? This time you will have to identify the exact species. If you think it’s a species of bird, for example, go ahead and guess “ovenbird” (hint: it’s not a bird). If you think you know the answer, send it in an email to thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you’re right, you’ll be entered in this issue’s prize drawing!

As mentioned, **Pure Fishing** (www.purefishing.com) has donated an excellent prize package for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s nature question. Included is an Abu Garcia Max Elite spinning combo, a Plano Stowaway tacklebox, multiple Berkley hardbaits and even some Berkley softbaits. This is an excellent prize for anyone who loves fishing, so start thinking! If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw a winner at random from the pool of correct entries. All nature photos here 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 media contact for more information.

Flying Fisherman Celebrates 40 Years of Polarized Performance and Family-Owned Passion

Islamorada, FL – This year marks a major milestone for *Flying Fisherman Sunglasses*, as the family-owned company celebrates 40 years of protecting eyes and enhancing outdoor adventures for anglers, boaters, and outdoor enthusiasts around the world.

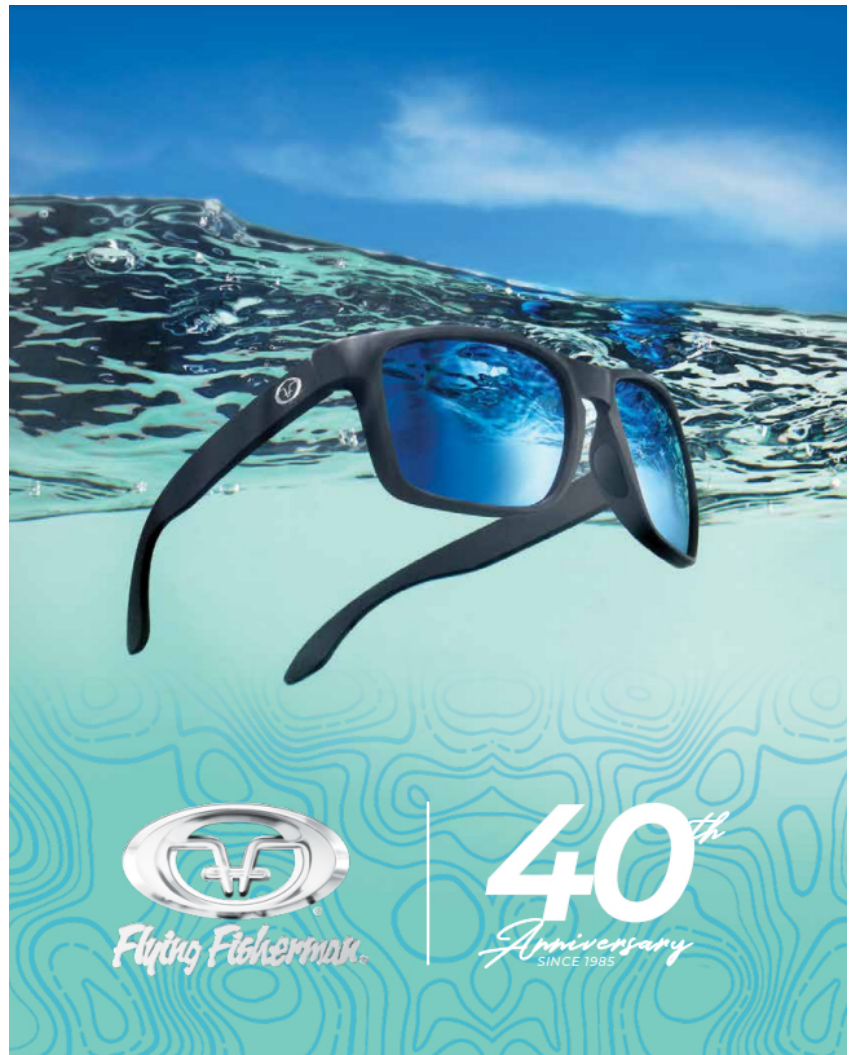
Founded in 1985 in the heart of the Florida Keys, Flying Fisherman began with a simple idea: create high-quality polarized sunglasses built for the conditions that anglers face every day. What started as a small family business serving local fishermen has grown into a trusted brand with a loyal following of outdoor enthusiasts who value clarity, durability, and performance on – and off – the water.

“We’re proud of how far we’ve come,” said Linda Sheldon, Vice President. “Flying Fisherman started with a passion for fishing and a love of the outdoors, and 40 years later, we’re still guided by that same passion. Our customers know that when they put on a pair of Flying Fisherman sunglasses, they’re getting gear that’s built for real-world use, tested where it matters most.”

A Legacy of Innovation and Field-Tested Design

Every Flying Fisherman product reflects decades of experience and a commitment to quality. The brand’s signature AcuTint® technology features impact resistant, polarized lenses that resist scratches and impact while providing 100% UV protection and superior polarization to cut glare and improve visibility on the water.

Their line of Floaters™ Sunglasses, made from eco-friendly TPX material, offers lightweight comfort and peace of mind for boaters and anglers. The brand has also expanded its lineup to include Jr Angler Kids Sunglasses that provide the same level of protection as adult styles – because protecting young eyes is just as important.



(continued on next page)

HOW Supporting Member News

Beyond Sunglasses: Apparel and Accessories for the Outdoor Lifestyle

Over the years, Flying Fisherman has evolved into more than just a sunglasses company. Their collection now includes performance apparel and sun-protective accessories like *SunBandit® Neck Gaiters*, wide-brim and mesh-back hats, casual apparel, and other accessories complete the line, making Flying Fisherman a go-to brand for anyone who lives and plays outdoors.

Rooted in the Florida Keys, Trusted Everywhere

Flying Fisherman's designs are inspired and field-tested in the Florida Keys, a proving ground where sun, saltwater, and long days on the water demand gear that truly performs. The company's roots in this iconic fishing destination remain central to its identity.

Family-Owned and Customer-Focused

From the start, Flying Fisherman has remained family-owned and operated – a rarity in today's eyewear industry. That independence allows the brand to focus on quality, value, and long-term relationships with customers, retailers, and business partners.

"We've never lost sight of what matters most: providing great products and treating our customers like part of the family," Sheldon added. "Reaching 40 years is a big milestone, but it's really a celebration of everyone who's supported us – from our loyal customers to the dealers who've believed in our products for decades."

Looking Ahead

As Flying Fisherman celebrates four decades of innovation, the company continues to expand its product offerings, refine its lens technology, and strengthen its presence both in retail and online. What hasn't changed is the brand's commitment to quality, affordability, and the outdoor lifestyle that inspired it all.

For four decades, Flying Fisherman has helped anglers and outdoor enthusiasts *see clearly, stay protected, and enjoy the outdoors to the fullest*. And as the company looks toward the future, that mission remains at the heart of everything they do.

About Flying Fisherman Sunglasses

Founded in 1985, Flying Fisherman is a family-owned company based in Islamorada, Florida. The brand designs and field-tests performance sunglasses, apparel, and accessories for anglers, boaters, and outdoor enthusiasts. Known for its high-quality polarized lenses, durable construction, and accessible price points, Flying Fisherman products are trusted by outdoor adventurers around the world.

Flying Fisherman® Polarized Eyewear. Totally Affordable...Totally Fishing.

Media Contact:

For more information on Flying Fisherman products, please visit www.flyingfisherman.com or contact:

Linda Sheldon, email: linda@flyingfisherman.com.

Phone: 305-852-8989 or 800-3-FLYFISH (800-335-9347).



HOW Supporting Member News

New Title from Target Communications Outdoor Books

Mequon, WI – Target Communications Publisher Glenn Helgeland recently announced that his newest book is now available. This one is titled **MY BROTHER JON**, and is a dedication to his brother Jon and his parents, Adolph (Duffy) and Gladys Helgeland. It is available as a paperback (235 pages) for \$23.95 (plus S&H) and will be available soon as an eBook on Amazon and Apple Books.

The book features the following chapters:

1. I Had A Brother
2. About Jon
3. Deer Hunting
4. Growing Up On A Farm
5. Dad and Mom
6. Dogs and Cats
7. Meals and Food
8. Crazy Stuff

When things happened, Jon always seemed to be in the middle of it. He did a lot of living...in a short amount of time.

This book is meant to be a dedication to Jon, but it is also a fond look back at a wonderful time and place for three outdoor-oriented brothers to grow up. We were on a farm in northwestern Wisconsin, with a mother and father who loved us, tolerated us, taught us traveled with us, exposed us to the world and laughed with us. We had a host of dogs who were a joy to have around and hunt with. We had a trout stream on our farm and lakes all over that part of the state.

We enjoyed growing up together – life sports, school, hunting and fishing. Our parents had great senses of humor. They taught us to enjoy all life had to offer. We knew they had great hopes and expectations for us, without ever saying a word about it. We simply knew.

The contents of this book covers a time roughly from the late 1920s through the 2010s...three generations of Helgelands. You are offered here a wide range of stories, topics and times.

We hope you enjoy them all!

For media inquiries, please contact:

Glenn Helgeland, Target Communications Outdoor Books

Email: glenn.helgeland@gmail.com.

Also available at: www.targetcommbooks.com.



HOW Supporting Member News

Shakespeare Unleashes the Wild with New Series Aimed at Versatility

Shakespeare®

COLUMBIA, SC (Oct, 2025) – Shakespeare expands its trusted lineup with the introduction of the new Wild series – a purpose-built collection of rods and combos designed to deliver reliable performance across a wide range of freshwater species. Built for versatility, the Wild series combines advanced materials and dependable construction to offer tailored performance at an exceptional value.

Each rod in the Wild series features 70% carbon composite blank construction and premium cork handles, offering the sensitivity and strength anglers demand for their favorite techniques. Matching reels include lightweight yet durable aluminum components and soft-touch comfort features that make long days on the water more enjoyable. With specialized options and travel-ready set-ups, the Wild series is ready to go wherever the bite takes you. All of the products shown below are available in October, 2025.

Wild Spinning Rods and Combos

Built for versatile freshwater fishing, **Wild Spinning Rods and Combos** provide the perfect balance of strength and sensitivity for panfish, walleye, trout and more. Each setup pairs a carbon composite rod with a smooth, dependable spinning reel, ensuring reliable performance and comfort for long days on the water.



WILD SPINNING RODS AND COMBOS – KEY FEATURES:

- Carbon composite rod blank construction
- Stainless steel guides with stainless steel inserts
- Premium cork handles
- 4 ball bearings + 1 roller bearing spinning reel
- Molded reel foot and handle knob soft touch grips
- Aluminum spool and handle arm
- Thick aluminum bail wire

Wild Travel Rods and Combos

Designed for anglers on the move, the **Wild Travel Rod and Combo** combines portability with performance. Travel rods pack down into peg-ready tubes, while travel combos include a convenient bag for easy transport, making it simple to be ready to fish anytime, anywhere.



WILD TRAVEL ROD AND COMBO – KEY FEATURES:

- 3-piece rod construction
- Peggable tube packaging (rods)
- Includes travel bag for easy transport and storage (combos)
- Carbon composite rod blank
- Stainless steel guides with stainless steel inserts
- Premium cork handles
- 4 ball bearings + 1 roller bearing spinning reel
- Molded reel foot and handle knob soft touch grips
- Aluminum spool and handle arm
- Thick aluminum bail wire for increased strength

Wild Conventional Combo and Casting Rods

Purpose-built for larger species and casting versatility, the **Wild Conventional Combos and Casting Rods** deliver reliable power and control. Equipped with synchronized level wind systems and selective bait clickers, these setups provide steady performance for Walleye, Salmon, Steelhead, and other hard-pulling freshwater species.



WILD CONVENTIONAL COMBOS AND CASTING RODS – KEY FEATURES:

- 20-size conventional reel
- 2 ball bearing design
- Stainless steel synchronized level wind
- On/off selective bait clicker
- Carbon composite rod blank construction
- Stainless steel guides with stainless steel inserts
- Premium cork handles

From versatile spinning setups to travel-ready rods and dependable conventional combos, every Wild rod and combo reflects Shakespeare's commitment to quality, performance, and value. Built to handle a variety of freshwater fishing techniques, the Wild series ensures anglers have the tools they need for every adventure on the water.

About Pure Fishing

Pure Fishing is a collection of the world's favorite fishing brands. Every day, all around the world, someone experiences the joy of catching a fish with one of our products. From gear for epic battles at sea to a relaxing day with family at the lake, our portfolio includes the most recognized and admired brands in fishing tackle, lures, rods, reels and storage. Abu Garcia, Berkley, DAM, Fenwick, Fin-Nor, Frabill, Greys, Hardy, Hodgman, Johnson, JRC, Madcat, Mitchell, Penn, Pflueger, Plano, Prologic, Savage Gear, Shakespeare, SpiderWire, Stren, Ugly Stik and Van Staal.

Media Contacts:

Ben Anderson, Gunpowder, Inc.
612-655-1122 or ben@gunpowderinc.com
Justin Brouillard, Gunpowder Inc.
802-342-2078 or justinb@gunpowderinc.com

*Whether wading creeks or casting from the dock,
Shakespeare's Wild has a setup for every freshwater pursuit.*



HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Alps Brands - www.alpsbrands.com
Archery Trade Association - www.archerytrade.org
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Black River Tools - www.blackrivertools.com
BoatUS - www.boatus.com
BOLT Locks - www.boltlock.com
BPI Outdoors - www.BPIguns.com
Cauldryn - www.cauldryn.com
Church Tackle Company - www.churchtackle.com
Cocoons Eyewear - www.cocoons.com
Costa - www.costadelmar.com
Daisy Outdoor Products - www.daisy.com
Dardevle by Eppinger - www.dardevle.com
Ducks Unlimited - www.ducks.org
Egret Baits - www.egretbaits.com
Falcon Guides - www.falconguides.com
Finn Tackle Company - www.finnspoons.com
FINS Braid - www.finsfishing.com
Fiocchi Ammunition - www.fiocchiusa.com
Flying Fisherman - www.flyingfisherman.com
G Pucci & Sons - www.p-line.com
Gapen Company - www.gapen.com
Gator Bait Tackle - www.gatorbaittackle.com
Gill Fishing - www.gillfishing.com
Grundens USA - www.grundens.com
Habit Apparel - www.habitoutdoors.com
Hawke Sport Optics - www.hawkeoptics.com
HHA Sports - www.HHAsports.com
Hi Mountain Seasonings - www.himtnjerky.com
Hobie Eyewear - www.hobieeyewear.com
HoldFastPro - www.holdfastpro.com
Hornady Manufacturing - www.hornady.com
Indiana Destination Development Corporation - www.visitindiana.com
Kehrer Fish Co - www.kehrerfishcompany.com
Lawrence County Tourism - www.limestonecountry.com
LensPen - www.lenspen.com
Li'L Tuffy Swimbait - www.ramblingangler.com
MEC Outdoors - www.mecoutdoors.com
Mepps by Sheldons', Inc - www.mepps.com
Mercer Sport - www.mercersport.com
Mister Twister - www.mistertwister.com
MOJO Outdoors - www.mojooutdoors.com
Moving Water Outfitters - www.mwoutfitters.com
Nat'l Shooting Sports Foundation - www.nssf.org

National Wild Turkey Federation - www.nwtf.org
Nesco Vacuum Sealers - www.nesco.com
Norsemen Outdoors - www.norsemenoutdoors.com
Nothead Tackle - www.notheadtackle.com
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - www.mossberg.com
Off Shore Tackle - www.offshoretackle.com
Old Salt Angling - www.oldsaltangling.com
Otis Technology - www.otistec.com
Outdoor Edge - www.outdooredge.com
Owner Hooks - www.ownerhooks.com
Pheasants Forever - www.pheasantsforever.org
Pradco - www.pradcooutdoorbrands.com
Pro-Cure Bait Scents - www.pro-cure.com
Pure Fishing - www.purefishing.com
Quad 4 Plastics - www.quad4plastics.com
Rapala VMC - www.rapala.com
RCBS - www.rcbs.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
Riton Optics - www.ritonoptics.com
Roberts Camera - www.robertscamera.com
Seaguar Fishing Lines - www.seaguar.com
Shipshewana/LaGrange County CVB - www.visitshipshewana.org
Shooter's Choice - www.shooters-choice.com
Sierra Bullets - www.sierrabullets.com
Speedhook Specialists - www.speedhook.com
Sporting Classics - www.sportingclassics.com
Spypoint Trail Cameras - www.spypoint.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
Target Communications Outdoor Books - www.targetcommbooks.com
Toyota Motor Sales - www.toyotanewsroom.com
Traveler's Guide to Firearms Laws of 50 States - www.bookvalueusa.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - www.ttiblakemore.com
Vicious Fishing - www.getvicious.com
Visit Madison, Indiana - www.visitmadison.org
Vortex Optics - www.vortexoptics.com
Whitetails Unlimited - www.whitetailsunlimited.com
Winchester Ammunition - www.winchester.com
W.R. Case - www.wrcase.com
Z-Man Fishing - www.zmanfishing.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:

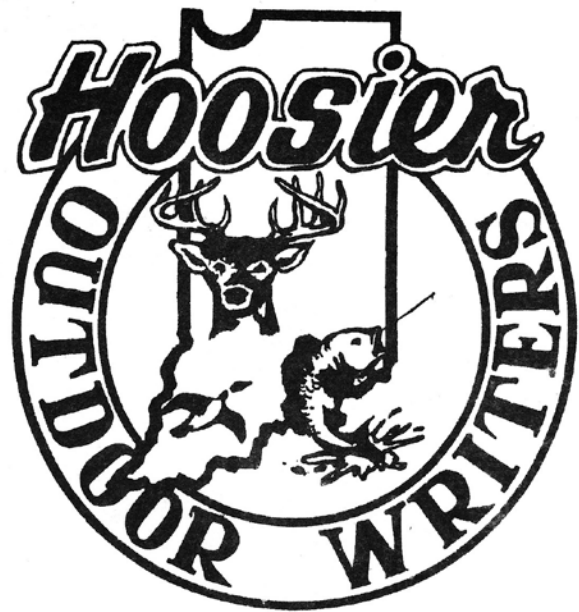
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor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

AGLOW 2025 Conference:

(www.aglowinfo.org)

Eau Claire, WI

September 21-25, 2025

Indianapolis Fall Boat & RV Show:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

September 19-21, 2025

SHOT Show 2026:

(<http://shotshow.org>)

Las Vegas, NV

January 20-23, 2026

NWTF 2026 Convention and Sport Show:

(www.nwtf.org)

Nashville, TN

February 12-14, 2026

SCI 2026 Convention:

(<https://convention.safariclub.org/>)

Nashville, TN

February 18-21, 2026

Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

February 20-22 & 25-March 1, 2026

Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

February 27-March 1, 2026

HOW 2025 Annual Conference:

(www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org)

Potawatomi Inn, Pokagon State Park

Angola, IN

April 10-12, 2026

(Annual meeting on April 11)

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*.