



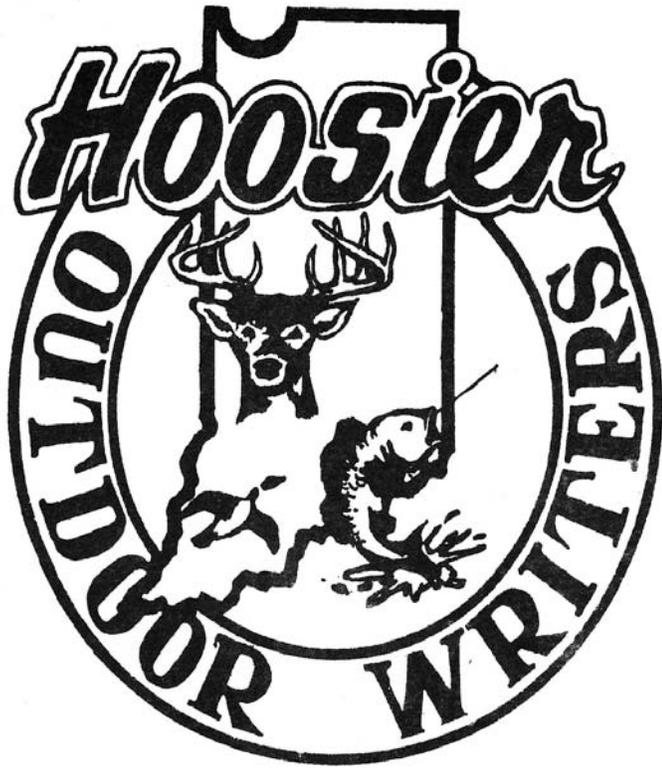
The Blade

2017 Post-Conference Issue

May - June 2017

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers

"The Falls at McCormick's Creek SP", 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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Brent Wheat – 2018
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On the cover: *The waterfall at McCormick's Creek State Park in Owen County is one of the most popular areas for visitors to the park. It's also one of the most beautiful spots. Photo by Tom Berg.*



President's Message

by Don Cranfill

All is Well

I must admit, it has been tempting to submit only the above line as my first installment for the President's Report. I didn't want to make the veins in Tom Berg's forehead bulge and receive an unwelcome email, though.

Three different times the computer has been powered up, Microsoft Word opened, and a few lines typed. The problem of being at a loss for words rarely enters my world, but here I sit. I thought reading the first

installments from past presidents would give me some inspiration to draw upon, so past issues of *The Blade* were perused. As I scanned through the last few years I often said to myself "*That sounds good, touch on that.*" Soon it was clear that I now had too much to say, and it would all be a plagiarized hodge-podge of everyone else's work. So, here goes...

We often talk among ourselves of changes that we would like to see in our organization. And every year when we come together in the spring these topics rise to the surface. I am excited about the progress we made this year on enacting some of these ideas so I will briefly touch on some of them.

The creation of an outing committee (still not big on that name, but it works) is something that will help build bonds between writers while enjoying our favorite outdoor activities. There has been talk of doing HOW-related outings throughout the years but we all know how hard it is to coordinate the schedules of larger groups of us. By having a few events scheduled throughout the year, for smaller groups of 3-5 members, it allows these events to build a stronger network of communication and exchange of ideas. If we have a high number of members participate then the dynamics of the group will be different at each event. All participants get subject matter for a future story and we become stronger as a whole, building bonds with members we wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to spend time with in the field.

The creation of a sponsor and corporate support relations committee is another exciting new endeavor for us. We all know that Tom Berg goes to great lengths to make sure we have a stellar raffle every year and that our awards, luncheon, and other aspects of the conference are brought to us by organizations who care greatly about HOW and the outdoors. It is time we helped him out a bit. For as long as I have been a member all these things happened with one condition, please make sure to thank those companies and organizations who made this happen. We all say we will, and we do...mostly. Through the creation of this committee we, the members of HOW, will be able to assist Tom in retaining, recruiting, and gratefully thanking our sponsors. This will also help us to bring in new sponsors to represent new, or otherwise unrepresented portions of the outdoor market. It may also help facilitate having sponsors make a more hands-on effort at the yearly conference with product demonstrations if we so desire.

(continued next page)

The biggest change is yet to come as we await the upcoming vote on membership requirements. This has been discussed since my first year in the group by every president. Much discussion went into this subject just before this year's conference at McCormick's Creek. I feel strongly that we are missing out on a great number of potential members who come close to our current requirements, but don't quite make the cut. We are all very aware how much our field has changed in a generation's time. By aligning our membership requirements with that of other professional outdoor writing groups we can be more inclusive of today's writers. We all know this serves one very important need, the recruitment of new members to ensure HOW's future.

There is also another benefit: craft development. Many of these people started writing for the very same reason we do; their love of the outdoors and a desire to share that love. They happened to do it in a time where the world of written word was changing faster than many could keep up with. I am speaking of those writers who have made a name for themselves in the digital media world. As new members, they could bring methods of capitalizing on this new and ever-changing platform. As an established organization we offer them a long-standing network of outdoor relationships and industry connections. We will be stronger for this making this change.

As you can see, every point I have touched on is positive for HOW and its members. I could have simply stopped after "All is well". I am glad to have expounded on each topic as it has refreshed in me that sense of excitement for the upcoming year. Indiana has much to offer in the outdoors. Let's all enjoy every bit of it that we can, and share it with all who will listen.

If there are any other ways to make this an even more outstanding organization, you have my attention. Until then, I can be found knee-deep in a creek chasing smallmouth bass at every opportunity. Drop me a line; we can discuss it between casts.

Don



Kayakers enjoy a day paddling and exploring Sugar Creek inside Turkey Run State Park. Photo by Tom Berg.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

**HOW extends a warm
welcome to our growing
ranks of outdoor
communicators:**

Kristen Monroe (Active)
Elkhorn, WI
Sponsor: Josh Lantz

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

Jack Alkire – HOW President 1979
Bill Beeman – Executive Director
Don Bickel
Ed Blann
Charlie Brown
Gary Carden
Jim “Moose” Carden – HOW President 1982/83
George Carey
John Case
Bill Church – HOW President 1972
Jack “Big Jake” Cooper
Mark Cottingham
Jerry Criss
Gary “Dox” Doxtater
Dick Forbes
Tom Glancy – HOW President 1977
Dale Griffith
Fred Heckman
Jack Kerins
Mike Lyle – HOW President 1981
Ralph “Cork” McHargue – HOW President 1976
Dick Mercier
Bob Nesbit
Hellen Ochs
Jack Parry
Harry Renfro
“Bayou” Bill Scifres – HOW President – **6 Terms**
George Seketa
Hal Shymkus
Al Spiers
Robert “Doc” Stunkard
Butch Tackett
John Trout, Jr.
Joe West

Past Presidents of HOW

“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1969
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1970
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1971
Bill Church	1972
Rick Bramwell	1973
Jack Ennis	1974
Phil Junker	1975
Ralph McHargue	1976
Tom Glancy	1977
Bob Rubin	1978
Jack Alkire	1979
Louie Stout	1980
Mike Lyle	1981
Jim “Moose” Carden	1982
Jim “Moose” Carden	1983
John Davis	1984
John Davis	1985
Ray Harper	1986
Ray Harper	1987
Ray Dickerson	1988
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1989
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1990
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1991
Jack Spaulding	1992
Jack Spaulding	1993
John Rawlings	1994
Phil Bloom	1995
Marty Jaranowski	1996
John Martino	1997
Mike Schoonveld	1998
Jack Spaulding	1999
Jack Spaulding	2000
Sharon Wiggins	2001
Phil Junker	2002
Larry Crecelius	2003
Bryan Poynter	2004
Phil Bloom	2005
Brian Smith	2006
Brian Smith	2007
Brent Wheat	2008
Bryan Poynter	2009
John Maxwell	2010
Brandon Butler	2011
Josh Lantz	2012
Ben Shadley	2013
Bob Sawtelle	2014
Alan Garbers	2015
Ken McBroom	2016



The Annual HOW Fun Shoot: Trapshooting at its Finest!



by Tom Berg

The 2017 HOW Fun Shoot held prior to the conference at McCormick’s Creek State Park was another great event. A great group of HOW members met at the Spencer Conservation Club just a few miles north of Spencer, IN and everyone had an enjoyable time.



Leonard Smith was our contact at the Spencer Conservation Club, and he had recruited three other club members to be on-hand for our Fun Shoot. They included Joe Ed Greene, Dan Detraz and Bob Curry. These fine gentlemen manned the trap thrower for us, kept score and offered helpful hints to anyone who needed it. They also provided some friendly chiding if we started missing too many clay targets!

The club’s trap course was very nice and it was well-groomed. All four of the club members are serious trapshooters and shoot here often; we were lucky we weren’t competing against them!

Above (L to R): HOW shooters Bill Keaton, Larry LaGrange and Gene Clifford are at the firing line and preparing to shoot. **Right:** The high-tech clay target thrower at the conservation club, fully stocked with White Flyer clays. Photos by Tom Berg (above) and Larry LaGrange (right).

At one point during the shoot, Larry LaGrange’s shotgun started giving him trouble, so one of the club members brought out his own trap gun and loaned it to Larry for the rest of the afternoon. Once Larry got used to it, he started hitting almost every clay pigeon that flew out in front of him!

We shot a few rounds of trap during the course of the

(HOW Fun Shoot continued on next page)



afternoon, interspersed with some “rest” periods where we sat and talked with Leonard Smith and the other club members. The talk ranged from trap and skeet shooting to hunting and fishing and various other topics. After a suitable rest period, it was back to trap shooting!

Bill Keaton led all shooters early-on in our competition, but Larry LaGrange became almost unstoppable as the afternoon wore on. Gene Clifford was also shooting well, but the fact that he turned 80 years old last fall and had hip surgery last year didn't help his endurance. Luckily, he had thought ahead and brought a lawn chair to sit in when he wasn't shooting. It definitely helped



his ailing hips. Towards the end of the competition, he even decided to do some shooting while in the sitting position. Nothing stops Gene!

All of the shooters were using Winchester AA "TrAAcker" ammunition which has either fluorescent orange wads or black wads to help you see if you are shooting in front of or behind the target. It was cool to see the tracking of the wad, and it definitely helped some of the shooters when they were shooting behind the clay pigeons!



Ken McBroom (front) watches at the firing line.

When the smoke cleared and all the scores were tallied, Larry LaGrange was named the winner of the HOW Fun Shoot for 2017. Congratulations Larry!

After the shooting was done, Leonard Smith and the others invited us into their clubhouse for a late lunch. Their hospitality was overwhelming. We ate and talked and had a great time. We continued talking until it was time to head for McCormick's Creek State Park to get ready for the Friday evening barbecue. Overall, it was a great afternoon with lots of laughs, good friends and plenty of camaraderie.



Club members L to R: Joe Ed Greene, Dan Detraz, Leonard Smith and Bob Curry. HOW Fun Shoot photos on this page by Tom Berg.

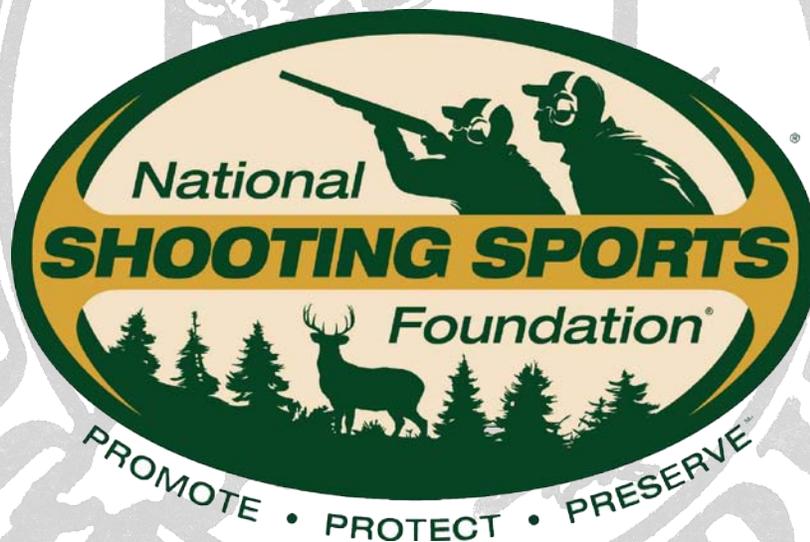
HOW would like to extend a big thank-you to Leonard Smith and the **Spencer Conservation Club** for their hospitality, and also to **Winchester Ammunition** for supplying the shotshells for the shooters this year. Their help was appreciated by all of the participants.

2017 HOW Conference

We would like to thank the following
companies and organizations:



Awards-in-Craft Sponsor



Conference Lunch Sponsor

Sponsors of the 2017 HOW Annual Conference

HOW Raffle Donors - 2017

A big thank-you goes to this year's raffle donors. Please support them in your work whenever possible.

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B'n'M Poles
Backwoodsman Magazine
Bagley Bait Co.
Bass Pro Shops
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Birchwood Casey
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BoatUS
BOLT Locks
Buck Knives
Bucket Grip
Camp Chef
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Trophy Angler's Tackle
Vexilar, Inc.
Vortex Optics
White Flyer Targets
W.R. Case
Winchester Ammunition
Yo-Zuri America, Inc.

2017 HOW Conference: Another Success at McCormick's Creek SP

The 2017 HOW conference at McCormick's Creek State Park is now in the books. It was another great event, and even though it was held not far from where we met last year (the Abe Martin Lodge in Brown County SP), we still had plenty of opportunities to discover new things and learn a lot about Indiana's great outdoors.



We had excellent attendance at the conference again this year, and everyone present had the chance to hear some exceptional speakers. We even had several members come in from out of state. If you didn't attend this conference you really missed a great time! If you're not sure what you missed, check out the next few pages of the newsletter to get a glimpse of the fun we had!

The Canyon Inn at McCormick's Creek State Park has excellent conference facilities and a topnotch staff, and our event was another great success. Many HOW members took advantage of the lodging and restaurant at the inn and stayed the entire weekend, while others just came in for the day to attend the HOW meeting. Our meeting room was spacious and well-appointed, the catered food was very good and the conference provided another great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and have some fun.

In recent years, the HOW Conference has actually begun on the Friday afternoon before the annual meeting on Saturday. This year's conference was no different, and at 12:00pm on Friday, April 21st, a group of HOW members met at the Spencer Conservation Club near the state park for the annual HOW Fun Shoot. The weather was good and the camaraderie was great. It was nice to actually have a Fun Shoot with no rain or snow! Details can be found on pages 6-7. After the shooting was done, everyone



The front entrance of the Canyon Inn welcomes visitors to McCormick's Creek State Park. Many HOW members stayed here at least one night.

drove to McCormick's Creek SP and joined the other HOW members who were already gathering for the Friday evening barbecue!

At 6:00pm on Friday evening, more than two dozen HOW members, spouses and guests met at the brand new Centennial Shelter inside the park for a special barbecue dinner and get-together. It wasn't fancy, just hamburgers, brats, potato salad (and other salads), assorted fruits and even a few desserts.

A light rain kept the temperatures down, but there was plenty to eat and drink. Someone decided to start a fire



Park Manager Dwight Brooks addresses HOW members at the Friday barbecue.

After the barbecue, members of the HOW Board of Directors headed over to the Canyon Inn to meet for their annual board meeting.

The annual meeting began at 8:00am on Saturday morning, and the attending HOW members and guests assembled in the spacious Oak Room in the Canyon Inn. As usual, the first hour of the meeting was set aside for registration and social time.

HOW President Ken McBroom

called the meeting to order at 9:00am and provided opening remarks, then briefed those present on the day's schedule. When he was done, he introduced Dwight Brooks again, since everyone did not attend the BBQ the night before. He welcomed the HOW membership and gave a short description of the outdoor recreation prospects available in the park and in Owen County. Whether you enjoy hiking, fishing, biking, bird watching or a host of other outdoor pursuits, McCormick's Creek State Park is a great place to experience the outdoors. Brooks then turned the podium back over to President McBroom so he could introduce the first seminar speaker.

Park Manager Dwight Brooks was present at the barbecue to welcome the HOW members to McCormick's Creek State Park and talk about Indiana's oldest state park. He talked about many topics, including the new Centennial Shelter that we were using for the barbecue. Everyone enjoyed his comments.



Here are a few of the HOW members and their spouses as they talk and enjoy themselves at the barbecue on Friday evening at McCormick's Creek State Park.



Dan Gehring from the Ruffed Grouse Society talks about Indiana's aging forest habitat.

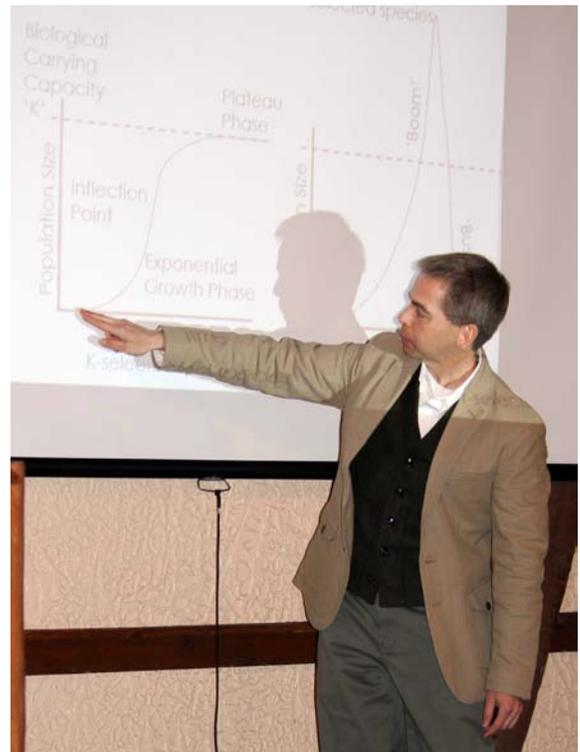
The first set of speakers were Heather Shaw and Dan Gehring from the Ruffed Grouse Society. They discussed Indiana's changing forest habitat and what can be done to improve the habitat to benefit native wildlife species like ruffed grouse, American woodcock and many others. For example, Indiana's aging forests continue to provide less and less open areas and young, dense stands of trees. These areas are very important for songbirds like brown thrashers, the common yellowthroat and many warbler species as they raise their young.

The second speaker was IDNR Deer Research Biologist Dr. Joe Caudell. Dr. Caudell discussed a variety of deer management topics, including current deer population trends, carrying capacity and bovine tuberculosis in Hoosier deer.

He also talked about the new high-powered rifle law introduced for hunting deer in 2016. Contrary to some predictions, it did not cause big problems and it did not cause a collapse in the deer population.

Before breaking for lunch, President Ken McBroom called the HOW Business Meeting to order. HOW Nominating Chairman John Martino then presented the proposed slate of new officers for the coming year. Don Cranfill was elected President, Troy McCormick was elected Vice-President and Ken McBroom will become the Board Chairman. Our new Board members (terms expiring in 2019) include: Mike Schoonveld, Kenny Bayless, Dianna Garbers, Vikki Trout and Terri Trowbridge. Thank you to all of our new volunteers!

After the elections and business meeting were concluded, an excellent buffet lunch was served by the Canyon Inn kitchen staff. Everyone relaxed and socialized for an hour before the afternoon activities began.



Above: Dr. Joe Caudell explains a chart showing deer populations and growth phases.

Below Left: HOW members enjoy a delicious buffet lunch. Seated left to right: Brent Wheat, Don Cranfill and Scott Weaver. John Maxwell looks on behind Wheat. Photos by Tom Berg.



The first seminar after lunch was titled “Urban Wildlife Program”. DNR Wildlife Biologist Megan Dillon discussed some of the initiatives of the program, including resolving conflicts between people and urban Canada geese, the Community Hunting Access Program for over-abundant deer and other topics.

One of the interesting methods utilized by the Urban Wildlife Program to discourage geese from using mowed grassy areas near ponds as feeding zones was to plant buffer strips of tall plants between the grass and the water. Geese cannot simply paddle to shore and then walk out onto the lawn if a thick strip of 4-foot tall plants block the way. Very smart!

After Megan Dillon’s urban wildlife discussion, it was time for a special TIP (Turn-In-a-Poacher/Polluter) Awards-In-Craft presentation. This year the TIP Citizen’s Advisory Board sponsored a writing contest for HOW members, asking our writers to promote the TIP mission, the TIP hotline and support the TIP Advisory Board. Several HOW members participated in the contest and wrote quite a few articles promoting TIP.

Brent Wheat, the HOW representative to the TIP Board, got up and introduced Joe Cales (TIP Board President) and conservation officer Captain Bill Browne (TIP Board/DNR Coordinator) to talk about the TIP program and present the awards. Captain Browne gave an informative description of the TIP program and the TIP mission before announcing the awards. Here is a list of the award winners:



HOW member Tom Berg (left) accepts his 3rd Place TIP Writing award from Joe Cales (center) and Cpt. Bill Browne (right). 1st and 2nd Place winners Brandon Butler and Mike Schoonveld were not present at the conference to accept their awards in person. Photo by Brent Wheat.

- First Place:** Brandon Butler, for his article titled: **“Poaching is a crime against all Hoosiers”**
- Second Place:** Mike Schoonveld, for his article titled: **“Turn in a Poacher”**
- Third Place:** Tom Berg, for his article titled: **“Poached Salmon?”**



HOW member Gary Redmon (center, peeking over bear rug) donates one of his black bear rugs to Cpt. Browne and Joe Cales from the TIP Board. Tom Berg photo.

After the TIP contest awards were announced, HOW member Gary Redmon made a special presentation of his own, by presenting a beautiful bear skin rug to the TIP Board as a donation for the next TIP banquet. Redmon also donated a nice black bear skin which was tanned and ready to be turned into a rug. Captain Browne and Joe Cales accepted the donations and thanked him, saying that the bear skins would be auctioned-

off at the next TIP banquet to bring much-needed funds to the organization. Kudos to Gary Redmon for putting his harvested black bears to such a good use!

Next, incoming HOW President Don Cranfill and Executive Director Tom Berg made the **2017 HOW Awards-In-Craft** presentation. Cash prizes and certificates were awarded to the best of the best in the annual Writing Contest, the Photography Contest and the Broadcast Contest. Many thanks go to Toyota Motor Sales for once again sponsoring our contests and recognizing the achievements of our members. Check the contest results on pages 22-23 to see who submitted the best work this year.



2017 HOW Awards-In-Craft winners (L to R): Rich Creason, Alan Garbers, Brent Wheat, John Martino, Paul Moore, Tom Berg and John Maxwell. Thank you to Toyota Motor Sales, the sponsor of our contests this year. Vikki Trout photo.

The final seminar of the day was led by Ken Smith, assistant director of the DNR Division of Water. Mr. Smith’s presentation was titled “OVER, UNDER, GONE – The Low Head Dam Initiative”. Mr. Smith discussed the familiar low head dams on Indiana waterways, and explained how the public often mistakes these peaceful-looking structures as safe places to play around, fish beside or canoe over. Nothing could be further from the truth. These dams can be dangerous, just like any dam.



Assistant Director of the DNR Division of Water Ken Smith talks about public safety issues near low head dams in Indiana. High water and flood events makes these dams even more dangerous. Tom Berg photo.

One attention-getting slide from Mr. Smith’s presentation said: “Danger! This is not a water park!” So true. He went on to explain some of the dangers surrounding these dams; the most obvious of which is drowning. Another surprising fact he discussed was that some low head dams in Indiana have been around so long that the original owners are no longer living or no one even knows who the owners are! Those are some of the dams slated for removal. The low head dam discussion gave all present a better appreciation for dam safety.

The final activity of the day was the annual HOW Raffle. This is the favorite part of the meeting for many HOW members! Raffle chairman Tom Berg organized an amazing event again this year, easily filling several banquet tables with fabulous outdoor products from our loyal HOW Supporting Members (and many new Supporting Members). This year he and his helpers secured donations from **88** companies, organizations and individuals. Tom would like to thank John Galambos and Rich Creason for their help in securing a number of the items again this year. Thanks also go to Gene Clifford for helping haul some of the items down to McCormick’s Creek from the NW corner of the state.



Gene Clifford (L) and Josh Lantz (R) check out one of the many tables filled to overflowing with great outdoor products for the HOW Outdoor Writers Raffle. All photos on this page by Tom Berg.

As is typical for the raffle, some companies donated major products and others contributed smaller items, but all were much-appreciated. Thank you, also, to the many HOW members who helped unpack and display the raffle items and banners on the tables on the morning of the meeting.

The moment the raffle tickets went on sale, a long line formed behind the ticket sales table. Long-time ticket hawk and professional number-caller Jack Spaulding was up to the task as he stripped tickets off the rolls 50 at a time. Jack's wife Chris also helped with the ticket sales (thank you!) and the two of them were hard-pressed to keep up!

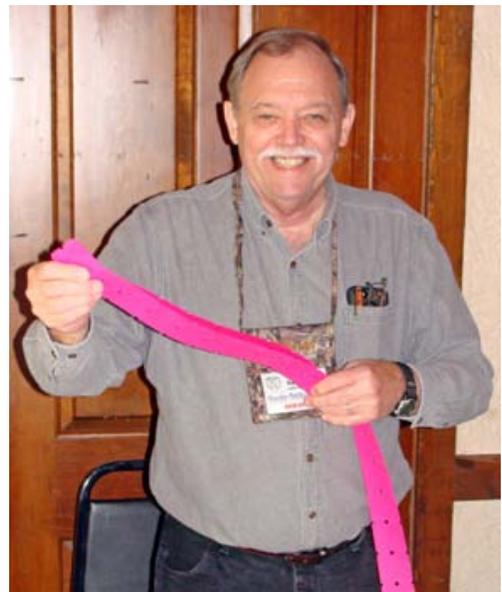


This year's raffle featured quality as well as quantity when it came to the items to be raffled-off. Firearms enthusiasts were especially happy with this year's raffle prizes, as we had a stunning **Henry** Golden Boy Silver Eagle lever-action rifle (with deluxe display

case), an awesome **Mossberg** Patriot bolt-action rifle, a cool **Remington** RP9 pistol, and a terrific **Ruger** American Model 6902 rifle. Archers were eager to get their hands on the great **Mission Archery** compound bow, too. We had an abundance of shooting supplies, riflescopes, ammunition and even a **Leupold** laser rangefinder.

Fishermen in the crowd were impressed by an incredible array of Great Lakes trolling gear, rodholders, fishing rods, fishing reels, tackle boxes, and lures of all shapes, sizes and colors. There were also backpacks, camp stoves, duck calls, electronic dog training gear, an electronic predator call, premium sunglasses, hunting gear, hats, gloves, waterproof binoculars, knives, boat-care products, camping gear, and many gift certificates. There were insect repellents, hunting calls, turkey hunting gear, outdoor apparel, waterproof boots, outdoors books, calendars, mapping software, cast iron cookware, DVDs, gun cleaning kits and lots of other outdoor gear.

The 2017 raffle was another huge success! Of course, without the support and generosity of our Supporting Members the raffle would not happen at all. For a complete list of this year's raffle donors, please see page 9. Please support them in your work whenever possible, and send them a thank-you note when you get a chance.



HOW Raffle guru Jack Spaulding smiles as he peels off another long strip of tickets.

Another Great HOW Fishing Outing!!

The HOW Fishing Outing that followed the recent conference was another success. The weather wasn't the best since a cold front had come through overnight and it was windy and cold, but some nice-sized crappies were caught in spite of it. Most of the participants had a good time, too. Next year make sure you sign up for the outing!

This was planned as a crappie fishing outing since our fishing guides were all experienced crappie tournament anglers. Six groups of anglers met their captains at the docks on two different lakes (Cagles Mill Lake and a local church camp lake) and proceeded to look for crappies. Here is what they found:

John Maxwell:

"During the Sunday morning HOW fishing trip, Bob Sawtelle and I puttered out of the Cunot boat ramp at sunrise in search of Cagles Mill crappie with Eric Millsaps from the Indiana Slab Masters fishing club. Millsaps hoped to teach us to fish for crappie using a spider rig system deployed from his Ranger fishing boat."

"Millsaps rigged up small plastic minnow jigs below small sinkers on the end of six nine-foot rods. The rod's six-pound-test monofilament lines were wound on small spin-casting reels. Each jig hook was also tipped with a Berkley PowerBait Crappie Nibble, and the rods were fastened into two three-rod-fan-arrays in bow-mounted rod holders."

"The day's fishing consisted of suspending the rods parallel to the water's surface and simply



John Maxwell took this cool photo of Tom Berg and Bill Keaton talking with guide Bob Raymer at the dock, just as the sun rises over the eastern shore.



trolling or drifting the suspended minnow-jigs through stump fields or creek channels at various depths --- and the method worked. When a rod dipped from the pull of a biting crappie, we only needed to lift the rod and the doomed crappie would swing into the boat, much like lifting a fish into a boat with a cane-pole."

"And thanks to crappie-catch contributions from several other HOW/Slabmaster boats fishing that Sunday morning, we had enough fresh crappie fillets to feed our turkey-hunting crew the following Friday."

(Fishing Outing info continued next page)

Bob Sawtelle:

“I once again had the pleasure of joining HOW members on the Sunday morning after our 2017 annual conference on a fishing outing with some of Indiana’s best crappie anglers. I am not a crappie fisherman; I fly fish mostly. But I have a huge desire to learn this new angling endeavor.”

“My first educational crappie fishing trip in 2015 was guided by Doug Sikora and I was paired with Tom Berg. Doug taught us everything Tom and I could learn in a one-day outing about dock shooting for crappie in developed shoreline reservoirs. I never had so much fun and success.”

“My next two outings after the HOW conferences of 2016 and 2017 were crappie trips guided by Eric Millsaps and my fishing partner for both years was John Maxwell. Eric introduced John and I to the art and science of spider rigging for crappie. We caught fish, including some pretty nice ones.”



Bob Sawtelle unhooks one of the crappies that he caught on Cagles Mill Lake after this year’s HOW conference. Photo by John Maxwell.

“Our own HOW member Ken McBroom added to my crappie tutorial on how to crappie fish with a day at Lake Monroe in 2015 and again within Ken’s new home waters of Kentucky Lake in 2017.”



“I learned to catch crappie.”

“The best part of crappie fishing is the crappie eating. I spent an evening at Ken’s humble Kentucky homestead where he and his wife Tammy prepared crappie bite appetizers as a start to a wonderful home-cooked meal.” Bob’s photo (left) shows how good they looked!

Ken McBroom:

“I had originally planned to travel home after the conference, but was persuaded to stay for the fishing trip on Sunday. It didn’t take much persuasion to change my mind, knowing that the trip would be at Cagles Mill and some of my old stomping grounds where many images and articles were produced and where I have caught a lot of crappie.”

“I was paired with Bret Cunningham, a pro staff member for Nothead Jigs, and he quickly put me on some fish. There had been a cold front, but the fish were still in less than seven feet of water, stacked on single stumps in a spawning flat. Rotating through just a few stumps was enough for a dozen or more crappie, all caught vertical jigging Nothead Jigs. It was a great day and I’m glad I stayed to fish.”

(Fishing Outing info continued next page)

Tom Berg:

“I was assigned to fish with crappie tournament angler Bob Raymer. I have fished with Bob several times in the past and he is one of the best! As usual, Bob was a fantastic host and he quickly put us on the fish. The conditions on the lake that morning were far from perfect, though. There was a very strong wind blowing all morning and it made boat control very difficult. It was cold, too!”

“We stopped near one of the shorelines where Bob knew there was some sunken brush on the bottom. We started jigging with small plastic tube jigs and instantly started catching crappies. Most of the fish were small and were released, but we caught several nice-sized fish which we kept. A couple of the fish probably weighed at least a pound.”

“While we were fishing,” continued Berg, “I heard some birds squawking in the bushes along the shoreline, but I could not see them. Then one of them



flew up into a large dead tree and started hammering away at the tree trunk. It was a pileated woodpecker. A few seconds later a second pileated flew up and joined the first! They put on a good show while we fished, hammering big holes in the tree searching for insects. Cool!”



Bob Raymer (left) lifts a keeper-sized crappie he caught during the fishing outing. Tom Berg (above) displays two of the bigger fish caught during the morning. As you can see, layers of clothing were required! Photos courtesy of Tom Berg.

Alan Garbers:

“The Sunday after the HOW Conference broke clear and blustery. It was one of those days that made me glad I was wearing my Frabill Storm Suit. Crappie tournament fisherman, Kirk Wyman, worked hard to teach me how to rig and use the long-lining style of crappie fishing. Long-lining is a cross between spider rigging and trolling.”

“Typically, spider rigging involves slowly trolling with six (three per angler) extra-long (10-14’) poles splayed across the bow of the boat, while moving slow enough to keep the lines hanging vertically in the water column. A light tap indicates a crappie is taking the bait. Many crappie fishermen use the technique effectively and consider it legalized seining, due to the amount of water one boat can cover while presenting a multitude of baits.”

“Long-lining is a little more aggressive and offers a faster presentation to the crappie. It’s almost to the point that the lines drift far behind the boat, as if trolling for walleye.”

“Did the method work? Yes, but the gin-clear skies after days of rain shut down the bite for us. Rows of white caps also made it hard to control our speed and direction, even when using a sea-anchor. We headed in after boating lots of small crappies, but I could see the value in long-lining.”

(Fishing Outing info continued next page)

Bill Keaton:

“I had the pleasure of fishing Cataract Lake with pro crappie fisherman, Walter Moore in conjunction with the HOW annual meeting. At 7:30am we met at the Cunot Ramp located just off State Road 42. One of Walter’s main sponsors is Nothead Tackle which makes a very effective feather jig for crappies.”



Bill Keaton (above) proves it was hard to avoid the small crappies at Cataract. James Lasswell (below, right) displays the trophy-sized crappie he caught and released. Photos courtesy of Bill Keaton and Rick Bramwell.

“The weather was less than favorable. It was a cool morning in the low 50’s, which would have been quite tolerable if it weren’t for the steady 25 mph east wind with gusts to 35 mph. Fortunately, I put on my heavy rain gear before leaving the dock and that was the only thing that kept me from being very cold. It was fairly sheltered from the wind at the launching ramp, so the temperature was deceiving.”

“Crappies are not a fish I have ever targeted, so I learned a lot about the methods used to target them, and the habitat favored by them. This morning, Walter used the spider rig method. Using this method, we slowly pushed our 1/8 ounce jigs tipped with minnows or Berkley Crappie Nibbles in front of the boat. It was very difficult to maintain proper boat speed due to the strong winds. We used very limber 14’ crappie poles which were dangled in front of the boat with six rod holders (3 per person). Walter’s boat was rigged for this type of fishing with double seats in the front of the boat. Each pole was rigged with a ½ ounce bell sinker at the bottom of the line with

one line coming off about a foot above the weight with a 3-position swivel. This line was about 12”-18” long with a Nothead jig tipped with a minnow or Crappie Nibble attached to it. 12”-18” above this line was a second line rigged the same way. This setup with six poles fanned out in front of the boat proved very effective at locating and catching crappies.”

“Although we didn’t catch any really big crappies and the wind made fishing on the lake very challenging, we had a great time. I got to know a really great fellow who I can now call my friend. After all, isn’t that what fishing is really about?”

Rick Bramwell:

“There was no getting out of the wind on the 10-acre private lake we fished in Owen County. I fished with pro crappie fisherman James Lasswell, and he caught what he was looking for on his third cast: a giant crappie that he immediately released without measuring or weighing.”

“Constantly changing depth and lure colors increased our rate of success as the day wore on. We were tight-lining 1/16 and 1/32-oz. jigs for big bluegills. We only caught that one crappie all day, but we ended up with a nice mess of large bluegills. We also caught and released several small, stunted bass.”



HOW's 2017 Bayou Bill Conservation Award Goes to McCormick's Creek SP Fire Tower Restoration Project

During the annual HOW Board of Director's meeting at the annual conference, it was decided that this year's HOW Bayou Bill Conservation Award would go to the Fire Tower restoration project at McCormick's Creek State Park. It seemed very appropriate since we were meeting on the state park grounds and the park property manager Dwight Brooks had been very helpful to us as we planned the conference. After the event, the following letter was sent to him:

Dear Mr. Brooks,

Tom Berg here from the Hoosier Outdoor Writers (HOW). Thank you again for your help with our annual conference two weeks ago which was held at McCormick's Creek State Park. We had a great time and hope to return to the park again in the near future.

Every year, the Hoosier Outdoor Writers organization awards an annual conservation gift in memory of the legendary Crothersville, IN outdoor writer Bayou Bill Scifres. We lovingly call it the Bayou Bill Conservation Award. This year, the HOW Board of Directors has chosen McCormick's Creek State Park and your Fire Tower restoration fund for the 2017 award. Congratulations!

We would like to send you a gift of \$100 given in Bill's name for your use in the Fire Tower restoration. You may use this money as you see fit for the restoration project. All I need from you is the best address to send the check to and who I should make the check payable to.

Once again, congratulations on the Bayou Bill Conservation Award. Your work with conserving Indiana's state park heritage is very much appreciated by citizens and sportsmen of all ages.

Best regards,

Tom Berg
Executive Director
Hoosier Outdoor Writers
www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org

Mr. Brooks was very thankful and put us in touch with the Friends of McCormick's Creek State Park. He said:

"That is great news, thank you very much! The check should be made out to The Friends of McCormick's Creek State Park, PO Box 483, Spencer, IN 47460. Again Tom, thank you and please pass on our appreciation to the HOW membership."

The Friends of McCormick's Creek State Park were also pleased to receive the donation in Bayou Bill's memory, and they sent the letter at right:



 **Friends of McCormick's Creek State Park**
www.FriendsMcCormicksCreek.org
Supporting Indiana's oldest state park

Treasurer
Barbara Filtri
2555 Hyden Rd.
Spencer IN 47460
Phone: 812 829 5213
E-mail: treasurer@friendsmccormickscreek.org

May 15, 2017

Tom Berg
Hoosier Outdoor Writers
2142 Nondorf St
Dyer, IN 46311

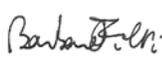
TAX RECEIPT

Thank you for your donation to the Fire Tower restoration fund, in memory of Bayou Bill Scifres. Your donation of

\$100.00

helps us getting closer to our goal of raising the estimated \$85,000 needed while continuing to support the park's events.

Best personal regards,


Barbara Filtri
Treasurer

Reflections on a Park

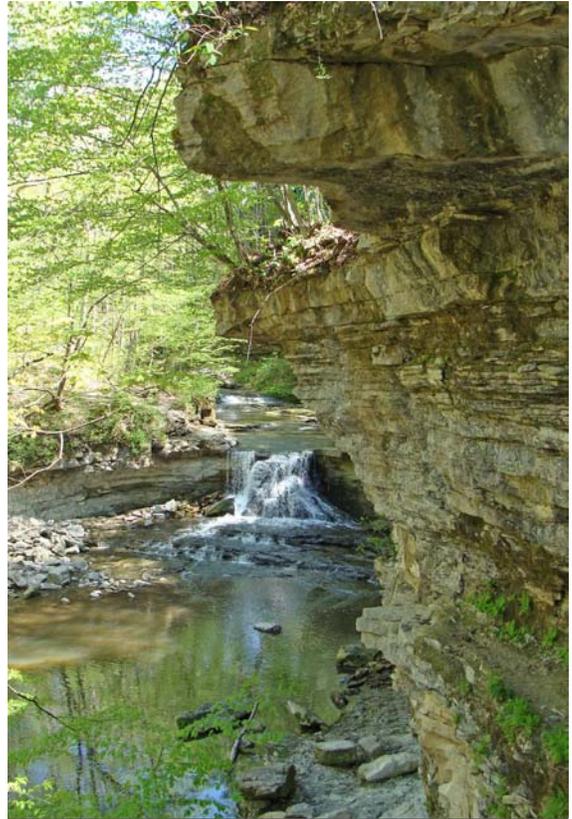
by Don Cranfill

While preparing for this year's conference, I was experiencing mixed emotions on the choice of McCormick's Creek State Park. One of the things about HOW that I have really enjoyed is the fact that we choose a different state park each year in which to come together. It has taken me to new areas of the state and previously unexplored state parks. When McCormick's Creek was announced last year my first thought was "OK, logistically this will be a breeze. I can save money on a room by driving." This was immediately followed by "But, I have been to that park thousands of times. What can it possibly offer that I haven't already explored?" I was wrong on both counts. And, yes, I talk to myself. Little did I know how much my life would change in the coming months.

Growing up in Bloomington/Ellettsville, McCormick's Creek was my family's 'home park'. Since it was only a few miles down the main drag from our house, it was the park to which we escaped for many a family reunion and countless weekend picnics. As a matter of fact, I associate the Indy 500 as much with that park as I do with the track.

As early as I can remember, the entire Cranfill clan would meet up on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend for a family picnic. There, all my aunts and uncles, cousins, grandparents, second cousins, a few great aunts/uncles, and a family friend or two who got caught in the mix would have the best times playing mushball, hiking, swimming, playing on the playground, and exploring Wolf Cave. All the while a transistor radio provided live broadcasts of the race. It seemed everywhere you went (OK, except in the cave) there was the race playing in the background. Seemingly everyone who wasn't at the race did this in those days. I am a sucker for nostalgia.

Another such instance was Father's Day many years ago. Being a summer solstice baby, it worked out that every so often my birthday would fall on Father's Day. Being a junior made this all that more special. On this particular Sunday, the whole extended family met to celebrate at the shelter house just above the falls. In retrospect, it has become even more of a nostalgic picnic as we would lose my father to a heart attack before the calendar cycled through and the days coincided again. It was another day of great fun and memories.



McCormick's Creek photos by Tom Berg.



There are dozens more stories which took place at this park, and several other state parks in Indiana, that are very special to me and others, but I won't bore you with all of them. These two are shining examples that I hold dear in my heart. I believe everyone in HOW probably has similar experiences.

As I mentioned earlier, when I learned of the location for this year's conference I had no idea how much my life was about to change. As it turns out, in the meantime I wed the love of my life and moved to the south side of Indianapolis. "I can still do this, I'll commute both days and still save some on the room." I was wrong. My new job wouldn't let me off on Friday

and I was forced to pack everything for the Friday evening cookout, for which I was the cook and head grocery getter, the night before. Two days before, my Jeep decided it was time for a \$1,500 repair, but I was lucky enough to be able to pack everything into my Mom's SUV. "I'll just slip away from work a bit early on Friday and all will be well."

Well, Murphy and his law prevailed and I had to go on a service run at 4pm on the north side of Indy. I remedied that situation in record time and was soon flying south to change clothes, and rides, and make it to the cookout by the skin of my teeth. Bear with me, this all has relevance. In continuing with the Murphy's Law scenario, I69/IN37 traffic between Indy and Btown was totally non-cooperative and put me even farther behind. So, by the time I came screaming up to the park entrance at 6:20pm I was not only twenty minutes late, but a bit negative about the weekend that was to come. My blood pressure lowered slightly as



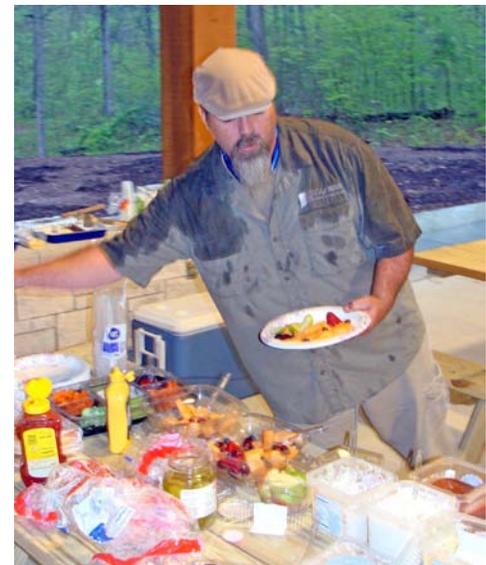
I cruised slowly through the park looking for this Centennial Shelter of which I had no memory. As I rounded the corner approaching the shelter I soon realized the location to which the map was leading. A flood of emotion washed over me as the realization that this was, indeed, the location of my childhood Father's Day/birthday celebration. I was, at first, sad in seeing that they had leveled my nostalgic memories and constructed a new shelter house in the exact location, but upon seeing what a beautiful job they had done in constructing the structure, in a style true to the original design from 1916, I soon got over the feeling. Upon remembering that McCormick's Creek State Park is the oldest state park in Indiana and that this shelter house commemorated one full century as such, it was as if the place had somehow become a time capsule. And, my memories were encased in that capsule. I was home.

From that point on, it was a different feeling. I was somewhere green. Somewhere that had enormous personal meaning to me. Somewhere I felt comfortable, relaxed. It mattered not that it was pouring rain on the smoldering

charcoal and that I was starting to resemble a drowned rat. The other writers were understanding of my time crunch and waited patiently as the burgers and brats began to cook on the still smoldering fire. Many offered help in setting up the rest of the vittles and soon we were all eating, chatting and making new memories in the new/old shelter. It was wonderful. Thank you all for your patience, understanding, and help. Brent Wheat and I decided to split a room. I simply had to stay.

As I stated earlier, I'm sure we all have nostalgic stories from every state park in the system. The talk I heard for next year's conference was that Spring Mill was the only state park with a lodge we haven't been to as a group. I, for one, am extremely hopeful this is where we will meet. There is so much to see there. From the Grissom Memorial to the pioneer village, Spring Mill has a lot going on. The geographic features are quite remarkable, too.

I cannot wait to make memories at next year's conference with you all. Thank you for indulging me and allowing me to share my love our Indiana state parks with you.



Don Cranfill: A little wet, but still happy. Park and BBQ photos by Tom Berg.

The HOW 2017 Awards-In-Craft Contest

The results are in! The winners of the 2017 Awards-In-Craft contest were announced at this year's annual conference at McCormick's Creek State Park, and we had a large number of excellent entries. As usual, the writing portion of the contest drew the most interest, as HOW members submitted a total of 73 entries from 12 different HOW members. The number of writing contest entries increased this year when compared to 2016 (when there were 60 entries), so next year you should be sure to send in your entries! You can't win if you don't play, and there is no cost to participate. The photography contest included 29 entries from six HOW members (an increase from 23 entries last year), and the Broadcast contest featured three entries from one member. Next year we hope to have even more members participate!

Most of the competitions were extremely close. In the Writing Contest, only one or two points often separated a first place entry from a second place entry, etc. Many articles landed in 4th place by a mere point or two, also. Considering the fact that each article can receive up to 200 points (100 from each of two judges), those were some close races! We were also happy to see that the writing awards were spread out among the entrants again this year (eight different winners). Get in on the fun next year!

Once again this year the Awards-In-Craft contest was sponsored by **Toyota Motor Sales**, so the winners were awarded checks along with certificates to commemorate their achievements. We would like to thank Toyota for their generous sponsorship in 2017. HOW members are encouraged to log on to the Toyota website (www.toyotanewsroom.com) to find out more about their products and recent news releases.

A special thank-you also goes to our contest coordinators who donated their time and energy to secure judges and get each of the entries reviewed and scored in time for the annual conference. Dealing with a large number of submissions which are typically sent right before the deadline always makes coordinating the entries/judges difficult, but the electronic entries really helped. The 2017 Awards-In-Craft coordinators were: Troy McCormick (Writing), John Martino (Photography) and Tom Berg (Broadcast).

Here is a complete list of the winners (along with the number of entries for each contest):

WRITING

(73 entries from 12 different HOW members)

Less Than 1000 Words

Hunting/Trapping

- 1st: John Martino, "Another Successful Freedom Hunt"
- 2nd: Brent Wheat, "Stillwater Marsh: Arkansas in Indiana"
- 3rd: Brandon Butler, "Governor's Youth Hunt Participant is Hooked"

Fishing

- 1st: Brandon Butler, "Fishing Legendary Bass Angler's Private Lake"
- 2nd: Brandon Butler, "Fish of a Lifetime Caught on First Trip"
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "Try Ice Flies for Late Summer Panfish" -- **TIE** --
- 3rd: Mike Schoonveld, "Are Your Hooks in the Red?" -- **TIE** --

More Than 1000 Words

Hunting/Trapping

- 1st: Alan Garbers, "Where to Find Your Hoosier Trophy Buck" -- **TIE** --
- 1st: Mike Schoonveld, "Learning from Professor Possum" -- **TIE** --
- 2nd: Paul Moore, "Road Trip: Bear Hunt"
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "Indiana's Reserved Pheasant Hunts"

Fishing

- 1st: Tom Berg, "Your Indiana Catfish Forecast"
- 2nd: Mike Schoonveld, "Drags are not a Drag"
- 3rd: John Martino, "Storms Can Produce Silver Linings"

(Continued on next page)

Less Than 1000 Words

Conservation

- 1st: Mike Schoonveld, "If It Looks Like a Fish"
2nd: Rich Creason, "Indiana's Wild Eagles Getting Old"
3rd: John Martino, "Conservation Officers Begin Recruiting" -- **TIE** --
3rd: Brent Wheat, "Sandhill Crane Fall Migration" -- **TIE** --

General Outdoors

- 1st: John Martino, "Is It Time to Have Your Hide Tanned?"
2nd: Brent Wheat, "It Was Hot"
3rd: Mike Schoonveld, "An Old Bird Survives"

PHOTOGRAPHY

(29 entries from 6 different HOW members)

Hunting/Trapping

- 1st: Tom Berg, "Pheasants in the Grass"
2nd: Brandon Butler, "Late Season Rabbit Hunt"
3rd: Brandon Butler, "Hooked For Life"

Outdoor Scenic

- 1st: Brent Wheat, "Sunset Sandhill Cranes"
2nd: John Maxwell, "Schoolhouse Storms, Harrison County"
3rd: John Maxwell, "Brown County Snowy Scenics"

BROADCAST

(3 entries from 1 HOW member)

Best TV Broadcast

- 1st: Brandon Butler, "Conservation Federation of Missouri – NWF President O'Mara"
2nd: Brandon Butler, "Conservation Federation of Missouri – Governor Jay Nixon"
3rd: -- No Entry --

More Than 1000 Words

Conservation

- 1st: Brandon Butler, "Loss of the Wild"
2nd: Alan Garbers, "Indiana's Rattlesnakes and Pit Vipers"
3rd: Paul Moore, "An America's Big Six Profile: Pineywoods"

General Outdoors

- 1st: Mike Schoonveld, "Are You Ready for a Breakdown?"
2nd: Brent Wheat, "Ramps: Gourmet Treats Hiding in Plain Sight"
3rd: John Martino, "Horselogger Traveling the Country"

Fishing

- 1st: John Maxwell, "Atterbury Stone Arch Lake Fishing"
2nd: Brandon Butler, "Niangua River Trout Fishing On Fire"
3rd: John Maxwell, "Flyfishing Flatrock River"

Outdoor Recreation

- 1st: John Maxwell, "Falls of the Ohio Kayaks"
2nd: Tom Berg, "Sporting Clays in the Trees"
3rd: Brandon Butler, "Fine Places to Hike in Missouri this Year"

Best Video

- 1st: Brandon Butler, "Spence Turner: A Life Well Cast"
2nd: -- No Entry --
3rd: -- No Entry --

HOW Awards-In-Craft Winner

1st Place in the Writing Contest (Conservation category) – Under 1000 Words

“If It Looks Like a Fish”

by Mike Schoonveld

If it looks like a fish, swims like a fish and sounds like a fish, it must be a fish. Right? It works for ducks. It used to work for fish, but no more. Dr. Xiaobo Tan of Michigan State University and his students are developing a robot to use in Lake Michigan and the other Great Lakes that looks, swims and sounds pretty much like a live fish.

They aren't just doing it for fun, or in a competition to see which university engineering department can develop the most animal-like or fish-like robo-creature. Dr. Tan believes a robo-fish or even a school of robotic fish swimming the Great Lakes can provide scientific answers to questions hard to come by using more traditional technology.

The problem is, for the most part, traditional technology, specifically the cutting edge tools used to track the movement of fish, is basically static. The best available right now is the Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observation Systems (GLATOS) in which a series of underwater receivers are deployed in strategic locations and the receivers capture signals from fish outfitted with internal transmitters when they swim by. The transmitter-equipped fish move, the receivers are stationary. The fish must be quite near a receiver for it to pick up its signal, so naturally, in lakes the size of the Great Lakes there are far more areas without receivers than areas where the gear can pick up the presence of a marked fish.

What if the receiver could swim and just follow the transmitter-equipped fish where ever it goes? The researchers would then have some real meat to digest. In the case of a spawning fish, knowing where it lives most of the time and then where it goes to spawn unlocks vital information. Coded wire tag studies on king salmon show these fish wander all over the lake (or lakes, since Lake Huron fish show up in Lake Michigan and vice-versa). Why is this? If a northern Lake Michigan fish spends a lot of its time in southern Lake Michigan, what conditions exist to lure the fish so far from where it was expected to go?

Is it the availability of food? Is it lake currents, water temperatures or some other unidentified factors or

combination or factors? Being able to “real time” track these fish with a robo-fish unit can help provide the answers - someday. These robo-fish, called GRACE by Dr. Tan and his colleagues aren't quite ready for prime time. The name, GRACE stands for “Gliding Robot ACE.”

Most man-made machines designed to travel underwater look like submarines. They have a propeller and rudder. Some work like underwater personal water craft and have thrusters or some sort of jet propulsion. Like a fish, GRACE moves through the liquid environment with a powerful tail fin to propel it forward and the movement is further enhanced with a glider system employing side fins (as do fish) and by changing its buoyancy by pumping up or reducing the amount of gas inside - somewhat similar to a real fish using its swim bladder.

GRACE moves through the water both by flapping its tail to propel itself forward and by ascending and descending through the water column and allowing the glider effect of its side (pectoral) fins to move it along. This is an exceptionally efficient configuration, giving GRACE an enviable multi-week endurance on a single battery charge.

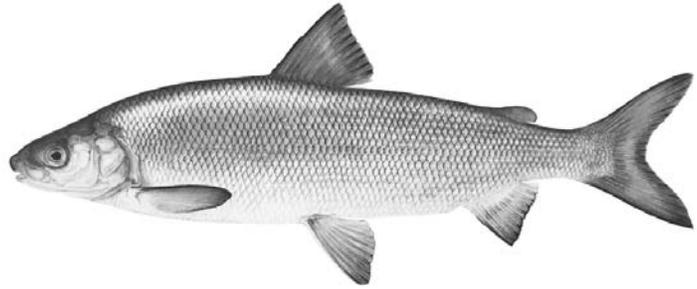
The original GRACE was basically just a test of the robot to see if, or how well, it moved through the water. GRACE, version 2.0, was out for testing last summer. This one had equipment loaded in it to scan and monitor its surroundings and to test the ability for the transponder to pick up readings from fish implanted with GLATOS transmitters.

Dr. Tan doesn't envision being able to actually gather much useful data from a fisheries point of view until the third incarnation of GRACE is deployed sometime in the next year or so. Actually, once GRACE three is launched (stocked) in the lake, the next step is to go into production of additional G-3 models. Once there is a school of these robo-fish dogging the salmon, lampreys, walleyes or other species of concern in the Great Lakes, major insights to fish movements and what they mean will soon follow.

DNR News

Division of Fish & Wildlife

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



For immediate release: March 9, 2017

Indiana Lake Whitefish Record Broken Twice in Two Weeks

The state record for lake whitefish has been broken twice in two weeks by anglers fishing Lake Michigan.

Josh Pisowicz was targeting whitefish on Feb. 19 on the Michigan City pier and caught a 5-pound, 9-ounce specimen. Pisowicz submitted a record fish application to DNR officials, and they certified the next day that his fish beat the previous record, set in 2015 by Dan Rostecki, by 1 ounce.

Then, on Feb. 28, Alexander Ciesielski submitted a record fish application for a 5-pound, 13-ounce whitefish he caught near Portage Lakefront Park on Jan. 21. Ciesielski was not targeting whitefish but knew as soon as he landed it that he had a record contender. DNR officials certified Ciesielski's record on March 3.

Ciesielski's fish marks the fifth record lake whitefish since the state established a category for the species in 2012. Assistant Lake Michigan fisheries biologist Ben Dickinson thinks the Ciesielski record may not last long either.

"We consistently see whitefish over 6 pounds in our netting assessments, and last year we had several weighing over 7 pounds," Dickinson said. "There are probably hundreds of fish swimming around Indiana waters right now that would break the record."

Whitefish have long been targets of commercial fishing operations in northern Lake Michigan due to demand for their flaky white flesh. Recently, sport anglers started targeting them in southern Lake Michigan.

Whitefish are a great resource for Hoosiers because they are abundant, delicious and accessible to shore anglers, according to DNR Lake Michigan fisheries biologist Brian Breidert. "And they can be caught using simple techniques, such as bottom fishing with a 1- to 2-ounce weight, a 12- to 24-inch leader, and a small hook baited with waxworms, salmon eggs or bits of nightcrawler," Breidert said.

Whitefish can be caught from most of Indiana's shore access on Lake Michigan, especially the piers at Portage Lakefront Park and Michigan City, and the Port of Indiana shore-fishing site.

Typically, the best fishing occurs between November and April, when nearshore water temperatures are below 50 degrees. Whitefish spawn near shore in late fall and stay during winter and early spring to feed on crustaceans, small fish, invertebrates and mussels.

More on Lake Michigan fishing, including shore access points and tips for fishing for a variety of species, is at wildlife.IN.gov/3625.htm.

Media contact: Ben Dickinson, assistant Lake Michigan fisheries biologist, DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife, (219) 874-6824, bdickinson@dnr.IN.gov.



Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

We have been asking HOW members to submit photos and reports about interesting or unusual birds that they have seen during their outdoor adventures. The sightings do not have to take place in Indiana; anywhere in the world is fair game. All photos on this page were submitted by those reporting.

We hope this page will not only interest bird enthusiasts, but all HOW members who enjoy spending time in the great outdoors (i.e. everybody). You may just learn something new, too!

Report from Dave Hoffman:

Dave Hoffman travels to Florida each winter and spends some time observing and photographing different bird species. "One of my favorite birding locations is Green Cay Wetlands in Palm Beach County," he said.

An elevated boardwalk makes it easy to walk along and see various habitat types. The **anhinga** (*Anhinga anhinga*) shown here was holding its wings out to dry them after diving underwater in search of fish. "This is how the anhinga compensates for not having waterproof feathers," explained Hoffman.

Who knew the anhinga has a blue patch on his face around his eye? Very interesting!



Report from Ken McBroom:

"I have a few pictures of some cool birds I've never seen before," said McBroom. "They may be common to some people, but I am really enjoying watching them and pursuing the backyard birding at our new house."

"Since I cleaned all the honeysuckle out of my wild blackberries, more birds are coming around. I believe the red bird and the yellow bird are summer tanagers (male and female respectively).



"I had just finished working on my blackberries and I bent a branch over and tied it to another cut off tree to make a living arch. I wanted to strap my blackberry briars to it (you can see the arch in the photos). I finished working and was on my sun porch having a cold beverage when a male tanager landed on the arch only a few minutes after I made it. The male did some singing then flew off and the female landed and sang a little, too. Amazingly, I've had half a dozen different birds I've never seen before land on that arch!"



Forest Service

Hoosier National Forest
811 Constitution Avenue
Bedford, IN 47421
Web: www.fs.usda.gov/hoosier



News Release

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acrain@fs.fed.us

Hoosier Outdoor Writer Volunteers Help Win Regional and National Awards

Bedford, IN - (April 24, 2017) Members from the Hoosier Outdoor Writers captained most of the boats for the 2016 Monroe Lake Cleanup, which was key to an award won by the Hoosier National Forest for 2016. The Hoosier National Forest competes annually with 14 other Forests in the Eastern Region of the US Forest Service for awards for volunteers and partners in service. In 2016, the Hoosier NF won awards in two categories.

The nomination for the 2016 Monroe Lake Cleanup not only won the Regional Award but went on to win a national award! This partnership project received an award in the Cultural Diversity category due to the broad spectrum of people who worked together to clean up Monroe Lake. In 2016 there were 97 volunteers, working a collective 392 hours to pick up trash in the lake to improve our watershed and drinking water. The partnership between Indiana DNR, Monroe County Storm water, Hoosier Outdoor Writers, Lake Monroe Marina, J.L. Waters and Company Adventure Outfitters, and several committed volunteers continue to make this an outstanding event.

“The Hoosier NF is pleased to have been a part of this successful event for the last four years, watch it grow over time, and pull in people with such diverse backgrounds,” said Chaveas. “We are humbled that people give their time to improve our environment. I

(continued next page)



couldn't be more proud of our Hoosier volunteers!"

Alan Garbers, Don Cranfill, Brent Wheat and Scott Weaver from the Hoosier Outdoor Writers all participated as boat captains and drove pontoon boats with volunteers to help clean up different sectors of the lake. Photos and report submitted by HOW member Teena Ligman.



HOW members and other volunteers unload trash they had collected from the cleanup.

The U.S. Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with a mission of sustaining the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Forest Service's Eastern Region includes twenty states in the Midwest and East, stretching from Maine, to Maryland, to Missouri, to Minnesota. There are 17 national forests and one national tallgrass prairie in the Eastern Region. For more information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/R9.

The U.S. Forest Service manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live. For more information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/.

THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

John Creighton Olson, Jr.
(June 18, 1943 - July 2, 2017)

Cincinnati, OH – John Creighton Olson Jr, 74, passed away on July 2nd, 2017 in a bright sunlit room in his daughter's home surrounded by his family. He was born in Portland, Maine to Dorothy (Currier) and John C. Olson on June 18, 1943. He is survived by Jacqueline, his wife of 51 years, daughter and son-in-law Dr. Dawn and Chris Kleindorfer, grandchildren Rachel and Benjamin Kleindorfer, Aunt Jeanette Currier and cousins Chip, Jay, and Robin Currier.

John was a long-time member of the Wildlife Society and a professional wildlife biologist who worked for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources from 1970 until he retired in 2006.

Many longtime HOW members will remember John Olson from his time with the DNR. He was Indiana's deer biologist from 1970 thru the mid-1980's. He was always willing to take calls, even at home, from outdoor writers who had questions about DNR deer rules and regulations. He also always made it a point to stay after public meetings to talk with writers. After a promotion, he worked in the Indianapolis Fish and Wildlife office for several years (in the wildlife section).

His stunning photographs of nature and birds were a great pleasure to him and will continue to be enjoyed for years to come by all of us.

John Olson was dearly loved and will be deeply missed. There was no funeral service, but a celebration of his memory is planned for a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his memory to Hospice of Cincinnati, P.O. Box 633597, Cincinnati, OH, 45263-3597.

HOW Member News

Doug Sikora Finds Tournament Success on Illinois' Lake of Egypt

HOW member Doug Sikora and his tournament fishing partner Michael Bledsoe had a great outing this past March on Lake of Egypt in southern Illinois. They were fishing the Pro Division of a Crappie USA tournament, and despite the handicap of not being able to arrive early and do some pre-fishing, they did quite well.

“The 2017 Crappie USA Super Regional on Lake of Egypt landed at a very difficult time in our schedule this year,” said Sikora. “However, the thought of this lake’s 2-pound crappies had us willing to gamble on experience, knowing that we wouldn’t have time to pre-fish this year.”

“We arrived at the host hotel, and heard mumblings of good fish being caught in shallow water all week. But a cold front was coming in around midnight. We welcomed the front as we knew the pattern that our competitors discovered during the week would soon change.”

“The morning of the tournament, we woke up to find snow in the boat and windy conditions, so we knew it was going to be a tough bite. We started in a calm bay that had deep water, and worked our way out to depths of 40 foot of water. We managed to boat a competitive stringer of fish, landing at the bottom of the top 10 on the leaderboard. We had a lot of work to do to climb up the ladder on day two.”

“Rolling the dice on the second day, we started in an area we never fished before, but it made ‘fish sense’ to us. The gamble payed quick dividends as I landed a 2.42 pound black crappie within the first hour, which also happened to be Big Fish of the tournament. We continued the charge up the leaderboard by landing a 2.19 pound white crappie and a 1.67 pound fish by 10:00am, keeping our spirits high.”

“At the end of the tournament we made our way to the scales knowing we had a good bag, but it was time to find out if it was enough. Waiting in the weigh-in line, we heard the weights coming in lighter than the previous day. Then it was our turn to put the fish on the scales, and much to our surprise we took the top spot with only a few teams left. Our two-day total was 19.54 pounds.”

“The day one leaders were the last to come to the scales, and the crowd grew quiet... ‘19.82 pounds’ was called out by the Master of Ceremonies, enough to beat our 19.54 pounds. Still, it was an exciting couple of days on the water!”

Second Place isn’t bad at all. Especially with Big Fish honors mixed in. Congrats!



Michael Bledsoe (left) and Doug Sikora (right) pose with their two trophy-sized crappies which weighed more than two pounds each. Photo courtesy of Doug Sikora.

Glenn Helgeland Publishes New Book “IN THE LAND OF THE BEAR”

HOW member Glenn Helgeland’s publishing company, Target Communications Outdoor Books, has released a new book titled “*IN THE LAND OF THE BEAR*” by Michigan-based outdoor writer Denny Geurink. This book provides an inside look at the excitement, mystery, danger and adventure of hunting huge, aggressive brown bears and traveling in Russia from 1991 through 2011, a time of political turmoil when the Soviet Union was evolving into Russia.

In addition to hair-raising stories of lethal brown bear attacks on people and livestock, bears digging up coffins in cemeteries, bears invading camps, and brown and grizzly bear hunting in general, the book contains historical perspectives of what was happening politically at the time in Russia, detailing how the Siberian people lived, worked, survived ... and how they viewed ordinary Americans (favorably).

In the early 1990s, the USSR wanted to boost its tourism industry in Siberia. Hunters and fishermen usually aren’t at the head of any list of tourist invitees, but in 1991 the Soviet Union, working with a U.S.-based travel agency, looked primarily at the spectacular hunting opportunities in Siberia and invited outdoor writer Denny Geurink on a moose and brown bear hunt. He had excellent success but, even more, enjoyed learning about and adapting to an unfamiliar culture and existence that, he felt, more-closely resembled the U.S. wild west from 150 to 175 years ago.

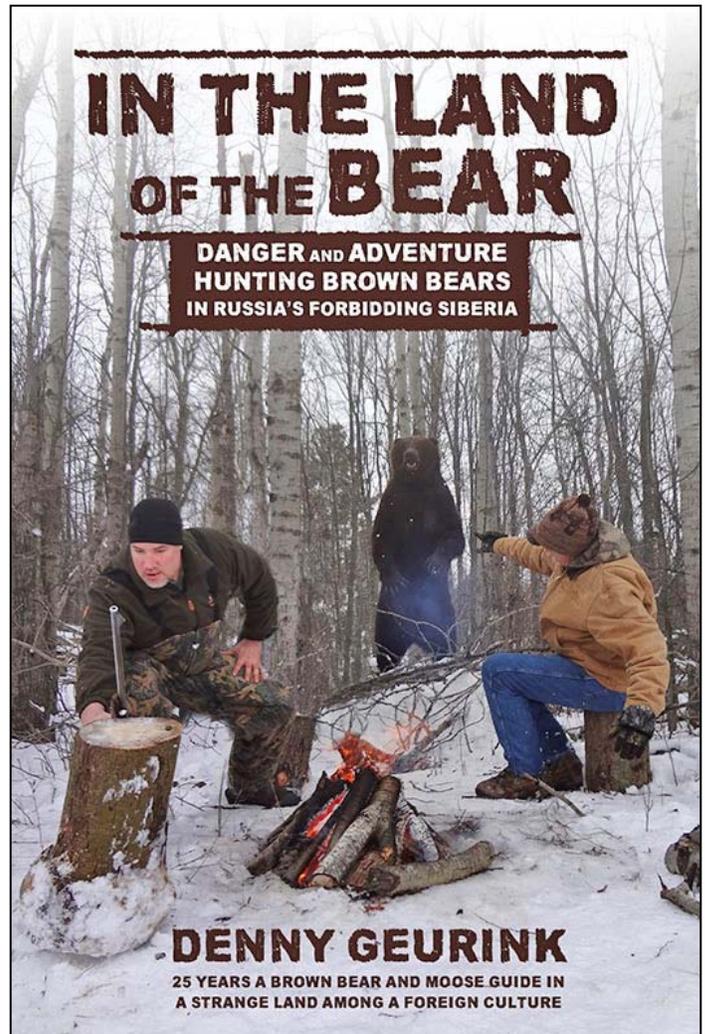
Geurink liked the total experience so much he became a hunting outfitter for Siberian brown bear (the largest, most aggressive in the world), grizzly bear and moose hunts, plus incidental hunts for bighorn/snow sheep, wild Russian boar (the largest in the world), with now and then a grouse or wolf hunt added.

He was the first American guide/outfitter to take clients to the brown bear capital of the world. Nearly 70 percent of the world’s brown bear population is in Russia. Russia is a game-rich country, because few residents are allowed to own firearms; thus there is little hunting activity.

For nearly 25 years Geurink lived adventure with a capital A, enjoying every minute of the hunts, the people, the culture, the political discussions, the travel throughout Russia ... and in the process developing strong attachments to the Siberian people and the land, sometimes staying for 90-day stretches to serve groups of hunting clients. He travelled there more than 50 times and continues to hunt Siberia annually.

It is an outdoor adventure book above all, but hunting aspects are in the tales told of camp life, in-the-field activity, and bear attacks. This is an updated, expanded version of an earlier item Geurink wrote a few years ago.

To learn more about Target Communications Outdoor Books, visit www.targetcommbooks.com. You may also contact Glenn at: Target Communications Outdoor Books, 10459 N. Wauwatosa Rd, Mequon, WI 53097. Phone: 262-242-3530, cell: 262-402-7668, email: glenn.helgeland@gmail.com.



Dean Farr and Friends Help Youths Experience the Thrill and Excitement of Pheasant Hunting

HOW member Dean Farr was one of the adult mentors at the Pheasants Forever Central Indiana Chapter's 3rd annual spring youth hunt at Crooked Creek Conservation Club. He said the event was a huge success.



"The weather was perfect and all the youth shot at least one pheasant," said Farr. "This year we hosted Indiana's First Lady Janet Holcomb as a guest. She, like the youth, shot a round of skeet before heading into the field."

"The day was awesome," said Tony Magnabosco who organized the effort, "and thanks to the help of Crooked Creek, the Izaak Walton League and the Ruffed Grouse Society, we all had a great time." Cam Clark, IDNR Director was also present. With 29 boys and girls in attendance there are now many memories from the field.

In photo back row (L to R): Conservation Officer Billy Doss, Blake Sanford, Tony Magnabosco, Janet Holcomb and Dean Farr. Photo courtesy of Dean Farr.

Bob Sawtelle Nabs Double-Digit Bonefish in the Bahamas

HOW Past-President Bob Sawtelle made a memorable trip to the Bahamas earlier this year, and he said it was absolutely fantastic. "This was my first experience fishing for bonefish," he recalled. "I was using a 9-weight Orvis H2 flyrod with igniter casting line, along with a Hydros IV large-arbor reel."

"I hooked the fish 50 feet out on a #2 Gotcha fly using a 20-pound test leader. The fish made three long runs. Each time it spooled 3/4 or more of my reel backing!" Sawtelle landed the big fish and measured it before releasing it to fight again."

"It was 31 inches long and was estimated to weigh 11-12 pounds. I'm going back ASAP!"



"Ranger" Bob displays his trophy-sized Bahamian bonefish just prior to releasing it to fight another day. Photo courtesy of Bob Sawtelle.

Seng Father-Son Team Score on Turkeys

HOW board member Phil Seng from South Bend loves fishing and hunting, and spring turkey season is one of his favorite times of year. Early season walleye fishing is pretty high on the list, too, but this spring's turkey hunt was something special, as Phil explains below.

"I made a fishing trip to the Detroit River this spring and it was a bit lackluster," he said. "We caught a lot of fish, but we missed the run of the really big spawning females. That's the story of my fishing life: 'You should have been here last week.'"

"However, I made up for it during turkey season: I called in a nice gobbler for my Dad. It was his first turkey! That made my season. My Dad's hunt was a special time together."

"And then I went back a few days later and called a bird in from a loooong way and from across a deep drainage ditch before dropping him at about 15 feet. What a rush!"



Phil Seng's father, Jerry, poses for a quick photo after harvesting his first turkey ever this past spring. Phil used his considerable turkey calling skills to bring the big bird in close for Dad. Photo courtesy of Phil Seng.

Membership Changes and New Contact Info

The following HOW members have updated contact information. Please make a note of it:

Marty Jaranowski: New home phone: 219-922-9182.

Phil Junker: New address: 221 Wyndom Ct., Goodlettsville, TN 37072.

Gary Redmon: New address, phone: 1031 Schmitt Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46239. Phone: 317-622-2264.

The following names represents our newest HOW members. Please make a note of their email addresses:

Dan Gehring: dan@gehring-us.com (new member)

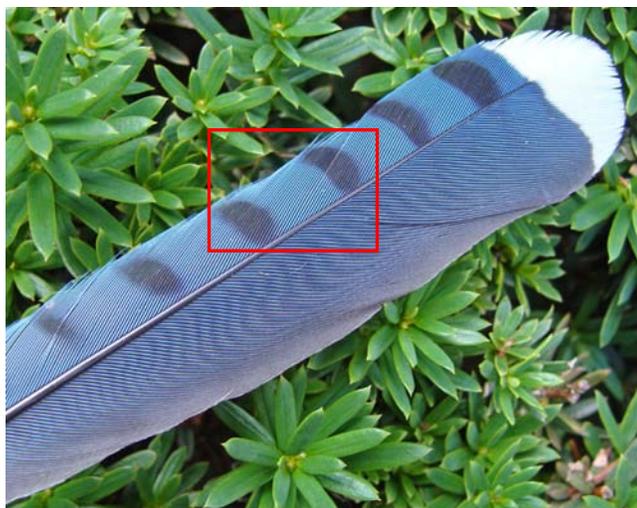
Liz Jackson: jackson@purdue.edu (new member)

Kristen Monroe: outdoornews@elknet.net (new member)

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 Battle Horse Knives

The Blue Jay's Feather Is Not Really Blue



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was easier than usual, since ten (10) HOW members were able to identify it. Ken McBroom, Dan Gehring, Phil Seng,

Jarrett Manek, Don Cranfill, Mike Schoonveld, John Maxwell, Troy McCormick, Bill Keaton and Mike Berg each had the right answer. When we drew a name at random for the Bushnell binoculars donated by the **National Shooting Sports Foundation**, Jarrett Manek was the winner. Congrats, Jarrett! We'll mail the binoculars to you right away.

As you can see in the photo above left, the mystery creature for this issue was a Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). This time we only showed one feather rather than the whole bird. The common blue jay is a large songbird, usually measuring up to 12 inches from beak to tail and with a typical wingspan of 16 inches. Their plumage is blue with black and white markings on the wings and around the head and neck. They also have a pronounced crest of feathers on top of their head that can be raised or lowered depending on their mood. Their blue color is actually deceiving, since the pigment in their feathers is melanin – which is brown. The blue coloration is caused by light hitting modified cells on the surface of the feather barbs, which makes them look blue to our eyes.

Another interesting thing about blue jays that not many people know is they sometimes impersonate the calls of hawks (usually red-shouldered hawks) to scare away other birds at bird feeders. Once the other birds hear the hawk call, they scatter and the blue jays have the food all to themselves!



For this issue, our friends at **Battle Horse Knives** will be donating a great prize for the HOW member that guesses the right answer to this issue's “What Is It?” question. This time the prize is a beautiful handmade knife and leather sheath. See below for more info.

Berg Poses Another Nature Photo “What Is It?” Question

Here's another Nature Photo mystery. The photo shown at right is a close-up of part of a creature that can be found right here in Indiana. You are not likely to see it in your own backyard, but it can be found throughout the state. Have you ever seen this color pattern?

We think this creature may be a bit harder to identify than usual, but we'll see. Do you know of any Hoosier creatures that look like this? As usual, you must identify the exact species. If you think it's a species of bird, for example, go ahead and guess “eastern bluebird”. Of course, it's not a bluebird, but if you think you know what it is, send the answer via email to thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you're right, you will be eligible for this issue's prize.



As mentioned above, **Battle Horse Knives** will be donating a very nice knife and leather sheath as a prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue's “What Is It?” nature question. The winner will receive the handmade knife shown in the photo at left (check out all the cool BHK knives at www.battlehorseknives.com). If multiple people guess the right answer, we will draw one winner at random from the group of correct entries. Good luck and have fun guessing! Photos on this page by Tom Berg.

HOW Supporting Member News

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

Harvest Clean Removes Odors Left from Fish, Game and Other Sources

Aliceville, AL: Tired of coming home from a fishing trip with hands that smell like a cooler full of dead fish? Is your wife tired of it? You know the drill – the fishy smell hangs with you even after you have washed your hands several times.



You think: “If only there was a soap, a cleaner, or something to get rid of that smell.” Well, now there is! Harvest Clean is a new product, just released in 2015. It removes odors left behind from fish, wild game, onion, garlic, gasoline, and other unwanted odors. No-rinse Harvest Clean Hand Wash is a one-step, deodorizing, waterless cleanser that is ideal for the outdoorsman.

You may be skeptical and ask the question, does it really work? Our answer: YES! We have used several home concoctions over the years and none did the job of completely removing the “fishy” smell.

Use Harvest Clean after catching and filleting fish to clean, moisturize and deodorize your hands without rinsing. After harvesting and field dressing wild game, hunters use Harvest Clean to clean and deodorize hands when

rinsing with water is not possible or practical. Take Harvest Clean hiking or on your next fishing or camping trip.

Harvest Clean’s lanolin moisturizer protects your skin from drying out after use and our fragrance helps remove odors left behind by fish and wild game. Our specially formulated pH-balanced spray is practical and versatile. Quit going home smelling like the livewell, bait bucket, or animal you harvested. Keep it in your vehicle, backpack, or tackle box. It even helps deodorize stinky shoes!

We believe you will be happy with Harvest Clean. Purchase your bottle today. Harvest Fish...Harvest Game...Harvest Clean!

For more info, check out their website at: www.harvestclean.com.

Media contact: Tracy Bridges, office phone: 205-373-3040, email: harvestclean205@gmail.com, cell phone: 601-650-6416.



HOW Supporting Member News

Henry Repeating Arms Honors Vets and the NRA Honors Henry at the NRA 2017 Annual Meeting

Atlanta, GA: Henry Repeating Arms paid respect to four distinguished American veterans recently by bestowing American-made Henry Military Service Tribute Rifles to thank them for their service to our country. The presentation took place on April 27th at the 25th Friends of the NRA Foundation Banquet during The NRA's 2017 Annual Meetings & Exhibits at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

As a sponsor of the event, Anthony Imperato, president of Henry Repeating Arms, invited the heroes to the stage to thank them for going above and beyond the call of duty. This year's recipients included 97-year old WWII veteran George J. Krakosky. "How many of you remember the movie *Saving Private Ryan* and those vivid images of American soldiers landing on the beaches of France under tremendous enemy fire?" Imperato asked the crowd. "For us it was a movie, but for our recipient it was reality."



Anthony Imperato with 97-year old WWII veteran, Mr. George Krakosky. Imperato gifted Mr. Krakosky with a Henry Military Service Tribute Rifle during the 2017 National NRA Foundation Banquet in April. Photo courtesy of Henry Repeating Arms.

Krakosky was drafted in the wake of Pearl Harbor and chosen by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower to be part of the Army's top marksmen. He was soon on a ship headed toward France, and with the Germans shooting at them before his landing craft could hit the beach he went over the side of the boat and swam to shore. He and what was left of his troop fought their way up the cliffs, past the enemy and on to the battle of St. Lo, France. It was there that after a fierce fight with the Germans he found a metal cross in a blown-up church. He picked up that cross, put it on, and is still wearing it today.

Krakosky's fellow recipients of Henry Military Service Tribute Rifles included:

Linda Becker, who retired from the US Air Force/Air National Guard after 39 years of service that included three overseas tours: Kuwait; Oman; Qatar. In addition she served in the mortuary at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, where she received our fallen military personnel killed overseas and prepared them for the journey home to their final resting place. She received Air National Guard Commendation medals from the states of Indiana and Pennsylvania, and she's the

recipient of the 2010 Air National Guard Senior NCO of the year.

Don Jenkins, a former United States Army soldier and Medal of Honor recipient for his actions in the Vietnam War, when during a firefight in Kien Phong Province he repeatedly exposed himself to extremely heavy hostile fire to engage the enemy, resupply his ammunition, and obtain new weapons. Despite being seriously wounded by shrapnel he made several trips through intense fire across open terrain to rescue other wounded soldiers. Ignoring the continuing fire and his painful wounds, and hindered by darkness, he made three trips to the beleaguered unit, each time pulling a wounded comrade back to safety. His extraordinary valor, dedication, and indomitable spirit inspired his fellow soldiers to drive back the attacking enemy and achieve victory.

Ty Carter, a former U.S. Army Staff Sergeant and Medal of Honor recipient for his actions at the 2009 Battle of Kamdesh

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HOW Supporting Member News

in Afghanistan. When he woke to an attack of 300 enemy fighters on all four sides, he bravely ran twice through a 100m gauntlet of enemy fire to resupply ammunition and remained there to defend his isolated position. Armed with only an M4 carbine rifle, he placed deadly fire on the enemy, preventing the position from being overrun. With disregard for his own safety and in spite of his own wounds, he ran through enemy rocket grenade and machine gun fire to rescue a critically wounded comrade. He saved his comrade's life by extending first aid and carried the soldier to cover. He then maneuvered through enemy fire to check on another fallen soldier and at the same time recovered the squad's radio, allowing them to coordinate their evacuation. His selfless actions saved the lives of his fellow soldiers.

The crowd of 1,800 people rose to give multiple standing ovations during the presentation. "Thank You for your service to our country, God Bless You and God Bless the United States of America," Imperato concluded as the crowd rose to applaud the honorees one last time.

A few days later at NRA Board of Directors Meeting at the Omni Hotel, Board President Allan Cors and Vice President Peter Brownell presented Henry Repeating Arms with the President's Special Recognition Award. Anthony Imperato, president of Henry Repeating Arms accepted the plaque which reads: Presented by the NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA To HENRY REPEATING ARMS In Grateful Appreciation for Distinguished Philanthropic Leadership.

Peter Brownell explained the genesis of the award, "As you know there are many individuals and groups that provide the financial resources to help the NRA advance its mission. Today we recognize a great patriot for his distinguished leadership." He continued, "In the spirits of freedom and solidarity Henry Repeating Arms partnered with the NRA to set a world record on November 14th, 2016 with the 1000 Man Shoot. During this event, 1000 freedom-loving Americans joined together in Phoenix, AZ to simultaneously fire 1000 Henry Golden Boy Silver rifles." Henry donated the 1000 rifles that were used, and proceeds from the sale of all 1000 rifles were donated to Friends of NRA.

Brownell continued, "And if that isn't enough, Henry is also a sponsor of the NRA Foundation Wall of Guns, the NRA Foundation banquets, NRA Gun Gurus TV and supporting sponsor of NRA All Access." Henry Repeating Arms also donated 1150 Henry Frontier Rifles to be used at Friends of NRA fundraising events across the country.

"Henry Repeating Arms has proudly supported the NRA for two decades. This combination of cash, gift in kind and sponsorship contributions total over 2.7 million dollars to the NRA." Brownell told the crowd, "This man holds a healthy respect for the company's rich history but with an eye for the future. Henry Repeating Arms has the distinction of being one of the top five long gun manufacturers in the United States, and Anthony Imperato is ensuring that Henry Repeating Arms' name continues to stand at the forefront of history and his generosity and desire to preserve our sacred 2nd Amendment is exemplary."

Following a round of applause, Imperato thanked the Board and all members of the NRA, and told the crowd, "I accept this in memory of my grandfather who got started in the gun business in the police equipment business 100 years ago. And in memory of my father who was a staunch supporter of the 2nd Amendment and promoter of youth shooting sports, I'm thinking of them both this morning. It's an honor on behalf of Henry Repeating Arms. Thank you."

For more information, HOW members may contact Anthony Imperato, president of Henry Repeating Arms, at anthony@henryrepeating.com. Please check out their website, too: www.henryusa.com.



Henry Repeating Arms was awarded the President's Special Recognition Award for Distinguished Philanthropic Leadership at the NRA Board of Directors Meeting. **L to R:** Board VP Peter Brownell, Henry Repeating Arms President Anthony Imperato, Board President Allan Cors.

HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Al's Goldfish Lure Co. - www.alsgoldfish.com
Alpen Optics - www.alpenoutdoor.com
Alps Brands - www.alpsbrands.com
Aquateko International - www.aquateko.com
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Backwoodsman Magazine - www.backwoodsmanmag.com
Bagley Bait Co. - www.bagleybait.com
Balsax Fishing Lines - www.balsax.com
Bass Pro Shops - www.basspro.com
Battenfeld Technologies - www.battenfeldtechnologies.com
Bill Lewis Lures - www.Rat-L-Trap.com
Birchwood Casey - www.birchwoodcasey.com
Black River Tools - www.blackrivertools.com
BoatUS - www.boatus.com
BOLT Locks - www.boltlock.com
Bradley Smoker - www.bradleysmoker.com
Buck Knives - www.buckknives.com
Bucket Grip - www.bucketgrip.com
Camp Chef - www.campchef.com
Celox Medical - www.celoxmedical.com
Church Tackle Company - www.churchtackle.com
Cocoons Eyewear - www.cocoonseyewear.com
Cortland Line - www.cortlandline.com
Costa Sunglasses - www.costadelmar.com
Cotton Carrier - www.cottoncarrier.com
Danner Boots - www.danner.com
Dead Down Wind - www.deaddownwind.com
Deer Dummy - www.deerdummy.com
Ducks Unlimited - www.ducks.org
Eagle Claw - www.eagleclaw.com
Environ-Metal, Inc. - www.hevishot.com
Eppinger Manufacturing - www.eppinger.net
Field & Stream Outdoor Life Deer & Turkey Expos - www.deerinfo.com
Fisherman's Handy Hook - www.thefishermanshandyhook.com
Fisknat Landing Nets - www.fisknat.com
Flying Fisherman - www.flyingfisherman.com
FOXPRO - www.gofoxpro.com
Freedom Tackle Corp. - www.freedomlures.com
Frogg Toggs - www.froggtoggs.com
G.Loomis - www.gloomis.com
Gamo USA - www.gamousa.com
Gerber Legendary Blades - www.gerbergear.com
Gun Protect - www.mygunprotect.com
Hart Productions - www.hartproductions.com
Harvest Clean - www.harvestclean.com
Hawke Sport Optics - www.hawkeoptics.com
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - www.henryUSA.com
HHA Sports - www.HHAsports.com
Hodgdon Powder Co. - www.hodgdon.com
Hoosier Trapper Supply - www.hoosiertrappersupply.com
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - www.hmhco.com
HT Enterprises - www.icefish.com
Hunter's Specialties - www.hunterspec.com
Indiana Department of Natural Resources - www.dnr.IN.gov
Indianapolis Zoo - www.indianapoliszoo.gov
Irish Setter Boots - www.irishsetterboots.com
Kruger Optical - www.krugeroptical.com
LaCrosse Footwear - www.lacrossefootwear.com
LensPen - www.lenspen.com
Leupold - www.leupold.com
LiveTarget Lures - www.livetargetlures.com
Lodge Manufacturing - www.lodgemfg.com
Lurecraft Industries - www.lurecraft.com
Mathews Archery - www.mathewsinc.com
Midway USA - www.midwayUSA.com
Mossy Oak - www.mossyoak.com
MyTopo - www.mytopo.com
National Marine Manufacturers Assn - www.nmma.org
National Muzzle Loading Rifle Assn - www.nmlra.org
National Shooting Sports Foundation - www.nssf.org
National Wild Turkey Federation - www.nwtf.org
Nikon Sport Optics - www.nikonsportoptics.com
Nosler, Inc. - www.nosler.com
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - www.mossberg.com
Off Shore Tackle Co. - www.offshoretackle.com
Otis Technology - www.otistec.com
Outdoor Guide Magazine - www.outdoorguidemagazine.com
Outdoor Sportsman Group - www.outdoorsg.com
Paleo Meals To Go - www.paleomealstogo.com
Pheasants Forever - www.pheasantsforever.org
Plano Molding Company - www.planomolding.com
PowerPro Lines - www.powerpro.com
Princeton University Press - www.press.princeton.edu
Pro-Cure Bait Scents - www.pro-cure.com
Quaker Boy Game Calls - www.quakerboygamecalls.com
Ramcat Broadheads - www.ramcatbroadheads.com
Real Avid - www.realavid.com
Reef Runner Lures - www.reefrunner.com
Remington Arms Company - www.remington.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
RIO Products - www.rioproducts.com
Secret Lures - www.secretlures.com
Shimano American Corp. - www.shimano.com
Shurhold Industries - www.shurhold.com
Sierra Bullets - www.sierrabullets.com
Sig Sauer - www.sigsauer.com
South Shore CVA - www.southshorecva.com
SportDOG Brand - www.sportdog.com
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - www.ruger.com
SunSect - www.sunsect.com
Swab-Its - www.swab-its.com
Tales End Tackle - www.talesendtackle.com
ThermaCELL - www.thermacell.com
Tink's - www.tinks.com
Toyota Motor Sales - www.toyotanewsroom.com
Traditions Media - www.traditionsmedia.com
Trophy Angler's Tackle - www.trophyanglerstackle.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - www.ttiblakemore.com
Unfair Lures - www.unfairlures.com
Vexilar, Inc. - www.vexilar.com
Vortex Optics - www.vortexoptics.com
White Flyer Targets - www.whiteflyer.com
Widener's Reloading & Shooting Supply - www.wideners.com
Winchester Ammunition - www.winchester.com
W.R. Case - www.wrcase.com
Xtreme Hardcore Gear - www.extremehardcoregear.com
Yamaha Marine Group - www.yamahaoutboards.com
Yo-Zuri America, Inc. - www.yo-zuri.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	_____ Photography
_____ Books	_____ Radio	_____ Lectures
_____ Television	_____ Teaching	_____ Trade Journals
_____ Artist	_____ 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, 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; 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; public employees in outdoor fields; educators teaching related subjects; fishing guides and tournament anglers, sportsmen 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 hunting, fishing, ecology, or in preserving the environment in general.

Calendar of Events

POMA 2017 Annual Conference: (www.professionalooutdoormedia.org) Shreveport-Bossier, LA	June 13-16, 2017
OWAA 2017 Annual Conference: (www.owaa.org) Duluth, MN	June 24-26, 2017
ICAST Show 2017: (www.ICASTfishing.org) Orlando, FL	July 11-14, 2017
Indianapolis Fall Boat & RV Show: (www.renfroproductions.com) Indianapolis, IN	September 22-24, 2017
AGLOW 2017 Annual Conference: (www.aglowinfo.org) Lake of the Woods, MN	September 25-28, 2017
SEOPA 2017 Annual Conference: (www.seopa.org) Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park, KY	October 18-21, 2017

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.