

The Blade

January - February 2019

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Winter Waterfowl on Lake Michigan", photo by Tom Berg



Hoosier Outdoor Writers

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

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On the cover: Lake Michigan attracts waterfowl regardless of the time of year. During the winter, any shoreline area with open water will attract many different species of ducks and geese. This group included goldeneyes, scaups, mergansers and scoters, just to name a few. Photo by Tom Berg.

President's Message

by Troy McCormick

Technology in the Field

I have to admit that I love technology, especially when it comes to photography and videography. I purchased two drones last year and I've already bought a new 1.x teleconverter for my 4k video camera this year. These days when I head into the woods for a day of hunting, I am usually carrying more camera gear than hunting gear.

So what's wrong with technology in the woods? Nothing really. I have even found myself passing the time, while waiting on a deer or turkey, with my iPhone in my hand. Why not take a few moments to check the weather radar, answer a few emails, and check Facebook?

I think back to a question my wife once asked me, "What do you think about when sitting in a treestand for hours on end?" I told her that I can often spend 3-4 hours hunting deer and when I try to remember what I was thinking about, I come up blank. That's not because I am getting older and having memory issues. It's because we as outdoorsmen and women take so much enjoyment and solace from our quiet time in the woods that we don't need to think about anything other than "I wonder what that is stirring up those leaves behind me?", or "Wow, that Pileated Woodpecker is really hammering that tree."

It is really that simple. Think about how time flies while waiting for a bobber to bounce, or trolling across Lake Michigan waiting for a strike. The time flies by! Of course I have had some of my greatest ideas for inventions while passing time in a deer blind, and they are usually related to creating a better turkey call or some other hunting product.

My goal, of course, is to find the magic mix of pure woods contemplation with today's available technology and not lose sight of why I am in the outdoors to begin with. If I miss a shot, with a gun or a video camera, that's OK because that's not why I am out there anyway. It's that time away from work and life's stressful challenges that I am enjoying.

If you're reading this while waiting for a crappie to strike, or pausing in the woods during some early season turkey scouting, thanks for keeping your technology limited to a few moments of your outdoor experience. You'll enjoy your time outdoors that much more.



The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

Richard Hines (Active)
Edmonton, KY
Sponsor: Tom Berg

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
Don Cranfill	2017

Annual HOW Conference

Make Plans Now To Attend The 2019 Annual HOW Conference At Fair Oaks Farms!

The 50th meeting of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers will take place on the weekend of April 12-14, 2019 at the **Fair Oaks Farms** complex about ten miles northwest of Rensselaer, IN. The property is located right on I-65, so it will be easy to get to and easy to find. Have you been to a HOW conference lately? This is shaping-up to be another great conference, and since we haven't had a conference at this location you won't want to miss it. Make your plans to attend now!



Fair Oaks Farms and the Fairfield Inn & Suites will welcome HOW members and guests in April at the start of our 2019 HOW Conference. Make your plans to attend now!

The weekend conference activities will begin with the annual HOW Fun Shoot on Friday, April 12. All HOW members who enjoy the shooting sports should consider joining us this year! If you have never shot a clay target, this would be a great opportunity for you to learn. Our shooters are always willing to help newcomers discover and enjoy the sport. Fun Shoot coordinator Mike Schoonveld has contacted Oakwood Gun Club (Wheatfield, IN) and we will meet there at noon. The gun club is less than a half hour drive from Fair Oaks Farms.

All conference attendees who arrive at Fair Oaks Farms on Friday evening are invited to attend an informal barbecue dinner sponsored by the **South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority** in the evening right at the Fair Oaks Farms complex. We will meet right on the back porch (the outdoor terrace) of the hotel at 6:00pm. There will be plenty to eat and drink, and it will be a great opportunity to see old friends and make some new ones. All HOW Conference attendees and their spouses are invited. The sign-up sheet is printed on page 9 of this newsletter.

The main meeting will occur on Saturday, April 13 in the Newton Room at the Fair Oaks Conference Center. As usual, you are not required to attend any of the events on Friday if your schedule only allows you to be present at the Saturday meeting. See page 8 for a copy of this year's conference registration form. We will have some great speakers at the conference, featuring the following presentations (more detailed descriptions of the presentations will be printed in the next issue of *The Blade*).

- **The new APPLE Program (Access Program Providing Land Enhancement)**
The DNR's Adam DeLucenay is the new Grassland Biologist for northern Indiana. He Graduated from Purdue University and previous work includes the IDNR Division of Nature Preserves and more recently as assistant property manager at Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area.

DeLucenay will be discussing topics pertaining to the new APPLE Program (Access Program Providing Land Enhancement) and how it is opening up more opportunities for Hoosier hunters. Other topics will include eligibility requirements for landowners as well as incentives for landowners who enter into the program and what the future goals of the program are. He will also discuss the process hunters will go through to gain access to properties enrolled in APPLE and what is expected of them once they conclude their hunt on the property.



Biologist Adam DeLucenay.

- Fisheries Management at Willow Slough FWA**

Tom Bacula has been with DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife for nearly 10 years and has been the District 1 fisheries biologist since 2012. He oversees the 14 counties in northwest Indiana for fisheries management activities (excluding Lake Michigan). Tom got his BS from Purdue University and MS from South Dakota State University. He worked at the office for a few summers as a seasonal aide before becoming the assistant biologist then biologist.

Tom will be providing the history, current, and future plans at J.C. Murphey Lake located at Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area. J.C. Murphey Lake is a 1,000 acre impoundment that supports a great bluegill and largemouth bass population from the division's active management of the fishery. The division has stocked channel catfish, redear sunfish, black crappie and northern pike to diversify the fishery, but more anglers target panfish (primarily bluegill and redear sunfish) than any other species.

He will also discuss fisheries sampling methods and touch briefly on survey design.



DNR Fisheries Biologist Tom Bacula will talk about the fishery at J.C. Murphey Lake.

- An Engaged Approach to Hellbender Conservation and Management**

Dr. Rod Williams is an Associate Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist within the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue University. Dr. Williams teaches courses in herpetology and extension education.



Purdue's Dr. Rod Williams.

His approach to research involves working with community partners to address large-scale wildlife problems.

He has conducted research on a wide range of herpetofauna including snakes, turtles, frogs, and salamanders. For the past decade he has been working with Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, Indiana State Parks, Zoos, and NGO's to create HelpTheHellbender.org (a partnership focused on hellbender conservation and restoration).

This large research consortium has helped assess current Hellbender population trends, population manipulations, habitat assessments and captive breeding and propagation efforts across the state. He and his partners are working on a long-term management plan to re-populate Hellbenders throughout much of its historical range.



- Actionable Intelligence from the Front Lines of the Outdoors Magazine Industry**

HOW member and past-president Brent T. Wheat, editor-in-chief of GUNS Magazine will be our final speaker of the day. He travels extensively for the shooting industry, and he will cover current trends and timely topics in the trade.

He will also discuss the state of outdoor magazine publishing in 2019, hot story topics and useful tips for dealing with editors.

At right, GUNS Magazine Editor-in-Chief Brent Wheat proves that he doesn't just write about firearms, he actually goes into the field and uses them, tests them and hunts with them.

In addition to the speakers and seminars on Saturday, the HOW Board of Directors will convene to discuss the business of the association. Before our traditional buffet lunch, a slate of new officers will be elected during the meeting, also. Of course, we are planning another excellent HOW Raffle this year, too! The raffle at the 2018 meeting at Spring Mill State Park was one of the best in recent years, and we are hoping it will be just as good or better at Fair Oaks Farms this year! We have already received a great variety of exceptional outdoors products for this year's raffle, including a beautiful Henry American Eagle lever-action rifle, a great Mission Archery compound bow, top-of-the-line Alps backpacks, fishing gear, shooting and hunting gear, optics, electronics, hiking boots, archery gear, camping gear and much more. Additional items are coming in every day, too, so start saving your money for tickets now. You must be present to win, so don't miss it!

Another Amazing HOW Raffle!

HOW Outings for Member and Spouses on Sunday

For all HOW members and their spouses who are planning to stay overnight until Sunday, we are planning a few different outings to choose from on Sunday, April 14th. Interested in fishing? Capt. Mike Schoonveld and some of the other captains from Indiana's North Coast Charter Association (www.charterfish.org) have agreed to host a fishing outing for us on Lake Michigan if the weather cooperates. We will be fishing primarily for coho salmon, but chinook salmon, brown trout and steelhead trout will also be possible catches. As usual for HOW's guided fishing trips, an earnest money check for \$25 per person must be paid in advance when you sign up for the fishing trip. See the signup sheet on page 9 of this newsletter. If the forecast calls for high winds and waves on Lake Michigan, another option is to fish on your own at nearby J.C. Murphey Lake at Willow Slough.

Other outings include visiting the Kankakee Sands Bison Viewing Area as a group to take photos and see Indiana's local bison herd, or participating in one of the 2-hour farm tours at Fair Oaks Farms (the "Dairy Adventure", "Pig Adventure", or "Crop Adventure").



We have already reserved a block of discounted rooms at the brand new **Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott** right at the Fair Oaks Farms complex for HOW Conference attendees who wish to stay overnight or for the entire weekend. The details are below, and our Reservations Link was sent out a month ago via email.

Rest assured that we'll be working hard to make sure this conference is worth the trip. It will definitely be one that you won't want to miss! So be sure to mark your calendars now, and **REGISTER TODAY!**

Staying Overnight at Fair Oaks Farms?

If you would like to stay overnight at the Fair Oaks Farms complex, we have a block of rooms reserved at the brand new **Fairfield Inn & Suites** at a deeply discounted price for HOW members and their guests only. The rate is especially good when you realize a hot buffet breakfast is also included in the price. When you are ready to make your room reservations, details are below. If you prefer to camp, campgrounds in nearby Roselawn (less than 10 miles) should also be available.

FAIRFIELD INN ROOM RESERVATIONS

Group/Promotional Code Link:

Our special HOW reservations link was sent previously via email. If you lost it or if you need assistance making your reservations, contact Tom Berg (see below).

Fairfield Inn, room with One King bed:

(Friday night 4/12/19 and/or Saturday night 4/13/19): \$99.00 per night + tax.

Fairfield Inn, room with Two Queen beds:

(Friday night 4/12/19 and/or Saturday night 4/13/19): \$99.00 per night + tax.

**Fairfield Inn & Suites
by Marriott**
708 N 600 E
Fair Oaks, IN 47943
219-394-2100

Don't wait to make your room reservation if you will be staying overnight at the Fairfield Inn & Suites. Our block of discounted rooms will only be available until **March 13, 2019** or until they are all reserved. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Berg (thomas.berg@comcast.net).

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Annual Conference Registration



Where/When: The Fair Oaks Farms Complex located near Rensselaer, IN.
The weekend of April 12-14, 2019

This registration form is for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 13th
(8:00am – 4:30pm)

Information to appear on name badge:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Spouse's Name (if attending: _____

Contact information:

Mailing Address: _____

City or Town: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Are you a first-time HOW conference attendee? _____

Early Bird Conference Registration Fees:

(Early Bird pricing good until March 15 only. After March 15, add \$5.00 each to register)

HOW Members (and spouses): \$35.00 each (\$35 X number attending) = _____

Non-HOW Members: \$40.00 each (\$40 X number attending) = _____

The conference fee at the door will be \$50.00 (so be sure to register before the conference!)

Conference fee includes continental breakfast and buffet lunch on April 13, 2019.

Please print this application and mail it along with your check for each person attending (make checks payable to “Hoosier Outdoor Writers”) to:

Tom Berg
2142 Nondorf Street
Dyer, IN 46311-1829

Questions? Email all conference questions to Tom Berg: thomas.berg@comcast.net

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Conference Activities Registration

Please register for the Pre-Conference and Post-Conference activities listed below (Friday, April 12, 2019 and Sunday, April 14, 2019). The only activity that requires an advance payment is the guided Sunday fishing trip, but please indicate the number of people planning to attend each activity so we can plan accordingly. Note that activities are reserved for registered conference attendees only.

Contact information:

Name: _____

Spouse's Name (if attending: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City or Town: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Activity Registration Fees for HOW members and their spouses (per person):

	Number Attending	Shotgun Gauge (20ga or 12ga)
Friday Fun Shoot*: _____	X _____	_____
Friday evening Barbecue: _____ FREE!	X _____	
Sunday Bison Viewing Trip: _____ FREE!	X _____	
Sunday Dairy (or Pig or Crop) Adventure***: _____	X _____	
Sunday Guided Fishing***: _____ \$25.00 each	X _____	= \$ _____
<u>TOTAL:</u>		\$ _____

- * We are hoping HOW members will receive complimentary ammunition from our Fun Shoot sponsor. The fee for the Fun Shoot will be payable at the Gun Club.
- ** The Sunday Dairy Adventure (or Pig Adventure or Crop Adventure) is available for HOW members. Pay directly to Fair Oaks Farms on the day of the event.
- *** The Sunday guided fishing trip (weather dependent) includes a guide, boat and tackle. HOW members need to bring their fishing license, jacket, rain gear, drinks, camera, etc.

If attending the Friday BBQ and/or the Fun Shoot only, you may email the completed form. If fishing on Sunday, please print this registration form and mail it along with your check for each person attending (make checks payable to "HOW"). Send to:

**Tom Berg
2142 Nondorf Street
Dyer, IN 46311-1829**

Registration forms and payment must be received by March 29, 2019 at the LATEST.

Questions? Email all conference questions to Tom Berg: thomas.berg@comcast.net

2019 HOW Conference

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers would like to
Thank the following conference sponsors:



Friday Evening BBQ Sponsor



Conference Breakfast Sponsor



Conference Lunch Sponsor

The 2019 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

**The Hoosier Outdoor Writers
would like to announce that:**

TOYOTA MOTOR SALES

**Will once again be sponsoring the 2019
HOW Awards-In-Craft Contests**



The 2019 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

HOW CRAFTS AWARD CONTEST RULES

The contest year shall be for material published or aired from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. All submissions, including photography, must have been printed, aired, published or electronically posted during the contest year (entrant must have been a HOW member when the work was published).

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

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

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

This year we will again allow electronic submissions only. We no longer accept paper entries. This has resulted in much less work for entrants, contest coordinators and judges. It also conserves valuable natural resources, which is something of which we can all be proud. Entries must be submitted via email (preferred) or filed on a CD/DVD and mailed. The only exception is the broadcast division, where tapes are also allowed. See the rules below for more details.

RULES FOR SUBMISSION

- 1) Contest entries must be in an electronic form. Entries must be emailed (or postmarked if mailing a CD or DVD) no later than midnight on March 1, 2019. Entries emailed or postmarked after that date will be disqualified. Send all entries to the proper contest coordinator (to be announced later).
- 2) An official HOW contest entry form must accompany each entry. The entry form must also be sent electronically. Please type entry details into the form (an electronic copy of the form will be provided).
- 3) Send no material that needs to be returned. No original material is required. As mentioned above, print contest entries and photo contest entries must be sent in an electronic form. In the broadcast contest, tapes, recordings and DVDs are welcome.
- 4) All submissions of print entries (either from traditional paper or electronic media) must consist of one electronic copy of each article with bylines removed. This file must be text only – do not scan tearsheets or newspaper/magazine pages. Do not include photos or photo captions. This electronic copy must be submitted as a Microsoft Word Document (.doc) or as a PDF file (.pdf). Entries not following these rules will be disqualified. As mentioned, print entry files must be emailed (or filed on a CD or DVD and mailed) by the deadline.
- 5) Entries into the broadcast category require only one tape or recording and may be sent by tape cassette, CD, VHS or DVD formats. Radio and television entries may carry the broadcast station's name and call letters if they are on "as aired" dubbed tapes. TV entries should be dubbed minus commercials if possible to facilitate judging.
- 6) Entries in the photography division must consist of one electronic (digital) copy of each photo. This electronic copy must be saved as a JPEG file (.jpg or .jpeg). Prints, slides and paper copies of photos will not be accepted. Please include a title for each photo entry. Digitally produced photos should not be substantially manipulated. Allowable photo enhancement is limited to standard shooting/darkroom techniques, such as color correction, contrast control and image cropping.
- 7) An individual article, photo or broadcast may only be entered in one category/division. Entering the same piece in multiple categories/divisions will result in the disqualification of duplicate entries.
- 8) There is a limit of two entries per category.

For all Article entries, send submissions to the Writing Contest Coordinator:

Troy McCormick, Email: contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

US Mail: 3604 Sea Pine, Jeffersonville, IN 47130

For all Photography entries, send submissions to the Photo Contest Coordinator:

John Martino, Email: jmartinooutdoors@att.net

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

For all Broadcast entries, send submissions to the Broadcast Contest Coordinator:

Tom Berg, Email: thomas.berg@comcast.net

US Mail: 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311

CONTEST DIVISIONS

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

WRITING ARTICLE CATEGORIES

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

BROADCAST CATEGORIES

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

PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES

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

2019 HOW AWARDS-IN-CRAFT CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Category _____ Division _____

Title: _____

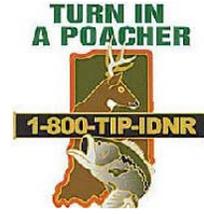
Where published/aired: _____

Publication/air date: _____

Entries and forms must be emailed or postmarked no later than March 1, 2019



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



Once again, the Turn in a Poacher (TIP) Citizen's Advisory Board is sponsoring a writing contest to encourage HOW members to promote the TIP mission, the hotline and support of the TIP Advisory Board. **This year the prizes have increased (\$200 for first place; \$175 for second place; \$75 for third place).** So be sure to write your TIP article right away!

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

1. Brief description of TIP (see below—does not have to be verbatim)
2. TIP Hotline (1-800-TIP-IDNR)
3. TIP membership/donation website (www.tip.wildindiana.com)
4. OPTIONAL: Indiana DNR TIP website (<https://secure.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2745.htm>)

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

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

For leads and contacts on actual TIP story ideas, contact Captain Bill Browne, IN DNR Law Enforcement, at wbrowne@dnr.in.gov; 765-509-0207.

To enter, submit an electronic copy of an article published between **March 1, 2018** and **January 31, 2019**. The TIP Citizen's Advisory Board will review all entries and will select the entry that best promotes the mission of TIP and encourages citizens to get involved.

Entries should be marked as "TIP" entries and sent to Contest Coordinator Troy McCormick, and they must be emailed or postmarked by March 1, 2019. Send TIP Contest Entries to:

Troy McCormick, Email: contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

US Mail: 3604 Sea Pine, Jeffersonville, IN 47130

What is TIP?

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

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

Citizens can help stop poachers in two ways:

- Call 1-800-TIP-IDNR if you see, hear or learn about a poacher or another fish and wildlife violation. If your "TIP" leads to an arrest, you may receive as much as a \$200 reward, and you can remain anonymous.
- Become an honorary member of the Turn in a Poacher Advisory Board (www.tip.wildindiana.com). Annual and lifetime memberships are available, and all proceeds from memberships go directly to assisting Indiana DNR Law Enforcement with catching poachers. (TIP hats and gear also available).

DNR News

Division of Fish & Wildlife

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

For immediate release: Jan. 17, 2019

NRC Approves New Nature Preserve

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) approved the designation of Lydick Bog Nature Preserve in St. Joseph County during its regularly scheduled meeting on Jan. 15 at Fort Harrison State Park.

The action increases to 288 the number of state-designated sites protected by the Nature Preserves Act.

The Shirley Heinze Land Trust acquired Lydick Bog in 2015. The bog portion of the property provides an extremely rare habitat in northern Indiana. The property is 176.46 acres total and contains approximately 85 acres of upland forest, 65 acres of wetlands, and 20 acres of former agricultural land.

The property contains freshwater wetlands interspersed with ridges and islands of upland forest. The wetlands are classified into four distinct types: a large bog along the northeastern section of the property, emergent wetlands, shrub-dominated emergent wetlands, and an ephemeral pond along the north-central portion of the property. The southern border of the property includes the northern shore of North Chain Lake.

About the Division of Nature Preserves

The mission of the Division of Nature Preserves is to identify, protect and manage an array of nature preserves and natural areas in sufficient numbers and sufficient sizes to maintain viable examples of all of Indiana's natural communities. Nature Preserves will also manage and maintain viable populations of endangered, threatened and rare species. These activities will be conducted for the benefit of the natural communities, their representative species as well as the benefit of future generations of mankind.

More details and interactive maps of Indiana's 288 nature preserves are located at: dnr.IN.gov/naturepreserve/4698.htm.

Media contact: John Bacone, DNR Nature Preserves,
phone: 317-232-4054.





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 John Maxwell:

HOW Past President John Maxwell from Indianapolis takes a lot of bird photos. As a staff photographer for the DNR, he takes photos for *Outdoor Indiana* magazine, DNR hunting, fishing and trapping guides, DNR websites and many different DNR publications. He is well-known throughout the state as a great photographer.

In late-January and early February, Maxwell spent some time in southern Indiana's Jackson County photographing **Sandhill Cranes** (*Antigone canadensis*). He also hoped to see the rare **Whooping Cranes** (*Grus americana*). As you can see in the photos here, he was not disappointed.

"I found a noisy gaggle of sandhill cranes jumping, dancing and squabbling in the evening in Jackson County," said Maxwell. "Sandhill dancing involves wing-flapping, bowing and jumping, or throwing a stick or plants into the air. The gregarious birds dance to help establish social relationships and long-term pair bonding." Sandhill cranes are very tall birds, standing approximately four feet tall.



A snow-white whooping crane interacts with a group of sandhill cranes in a harvested corn field. Note both species have a red cap.

"I was also lucky enough to see a rare whooping crane while photographing the sandhills," continued Maxwell. "In this photo (left), an adult whooping crane spars with several sandhill cranes while feeding in Jackson County. Whoopers sometimes flock and socialize with sandhills. I had traveled down to Medora to photograph Medora's covered bridge, but floodwaters from the White River prevented anyone getting near the bridge. Instead, I detoured through the countryside where I ran across this whooper and his buddies."

Whooping cranes are the tallest birds in North America, often reaching a height of five feet. They have an impressive wingspan, as well, stretching more than seven feet from wingtip to wingtip.



Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors



Report from Tom Berg:

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg from Dyer, IN loves looking for new birds, and while fishing in Florida last May he had plenty of opportunities to see new and interesting birds. “My brother Mike and I were fishing in a small pond at Lake Ida Park in Palm Beach County,” said Berg. “Suddenly, I heard the loud squawk of a bird. It was so loud it startled me! I looked over to the nearby marshy shoreline area and saw the culprit.”

“It was fairly large wading bird, with long legs and a very long, slightly curved beak. I had never seen anything like it before. Its feathers were a mottled brown color with white flecks, and it had a long neck. It walked along the shallows very slowly, searching for something to eat. The water was only a few inches deep where it was standing, but it was very weedy. I took several photographs of it before it disappeared around the next point.”



“I finally found out what kind of bird it was when I got back home and consulted my bird identification books,” related Berg. “It was easy to identify since I had photos.” It was a **Limpkin** (*Aramus guarauna*), a common wading bird of south Florida.



A limpkin searches the shallows for apple snails and mollusks.

Limpkins prefer a diet of aquatic apple snails (they make up 75% of the limpkin’s diet). When they find one of these large snails in shallow water they bring it to shore, place it in the mud (open end up), and quickly pry out the live snail from inside. It usually only takes them 10 seconds to remove the snail, and they rarely break the snail’s shell when they do it. “Mike and I saw lots of empty apple snail shells along the shoreline,” agreed Berg. “This pond was the perfect feeding ground for the local limpkin population!”

Report from Bill Keaton:

HOW member Bill Keaton from Arlington, IN has several bird feeders that he keeps well-stocked with seed to attract the local birds. He also gets many migrating birds to stop at his feeders as they head south for the winter. Last fall was no exception. “This pretty little **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (*Setophaga coronata*) was under one of my bird feeders as it migrated though in October,” said Keaton. “We see several kinds of warblers every spring and fall as they migrate.”



Did you take an interesting bird photo while exploring afield recently?

HOW members are encouraged to send their interesting bird photos to newsletter editor Tom Berg (thomas.berg@comcast.net) for use in future editions of the “Interesting Bird Sightings” page. It does not need to be a rare bird. Your fellow HOW members would love to see your bird pictures.

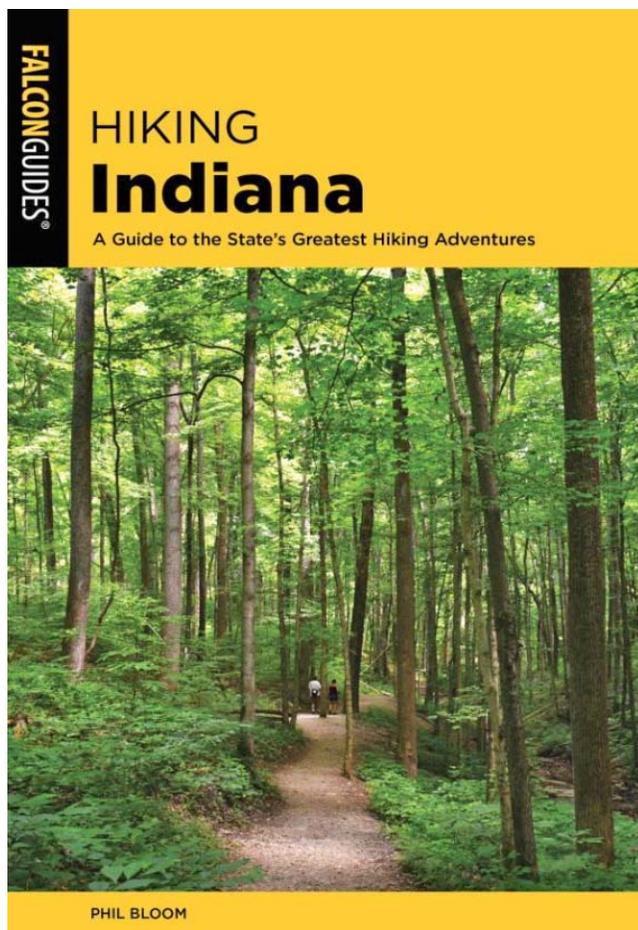
Reviews on Great Outdoor Books

Everyone likes to read new books, whether it is strictly for pleasure or to learn something new. HOW members are no exception! Some of our favorites are outdoor guide books and identification books. Books that help us identify plants, mammals, fish, butterflies and birds are always popular. But we also love outdoor adventure and recreation books. The guide book below is one that you may want to add to your library and introduce to your readers as well:

Hiking Indiana: A Guide to the State's Greatest Hiking Adventures, by Phil Bloom.

Book review by Tom Berg:

Falcon Guides has just released the 3rd edition of HOW member Phil Bloom's book, *Hiking Indiana: A Guide to the State's Greatest Hiking Adventures*. Anyone who thinks the Indiana landscape is flat and boring from one end of the state to the other couldn't be more wrong. For example, there are some hikes in the southern part of the state that are very challenging, even for the most fit outdoors enthusiasts. Hiking is one of the best ways to discover the landscape and many of the treasures hidden therein. As Bloom put it: "In Indiana, rolling hills, gorgeous rivers, and lush forests create a hiking experience unlike any other."



This field guide divides the state into nine different geographic regions, including the dunelands and glacial lakes regions of northern Indiana, the Wabash Valley, the hill country around Brown County, Hoosier National Forest lands and the Knobstone Trail area, just to name some of the more interesting areas.

Although many of the more than 70 highlighted hiking trails in this guide are located within the borders of Indiana's great state parks, some of the most interesting ones can be found in other locales. Nature preserves, local and county parks, state forests and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (now Indiana Dunes National Park) are home to many excellent trails.

This book provides detailed information on each highlighted hike in the designated geographic region. Exact locations of the trails, length, elevation change, typical hiking time, difficulty, fees (if any), camping availability, parking and more. A high quality map and a detailed description of the trail and surrounding area accompanies each entry. Many full-color photos help illustrate the book and show the reader what to expect when they visit.

Besides showcasing Indiana's beautiful forests and meadows, many of the hikes feature interesting destinations that the book describes in detail. For example, Twin Caves Trail in downstate Spring Mill State Park features sinkholes

and caves (Twin Caves and Bronson Cave) which draw interest from hikers of all ages. Cowles Bog near Dune Acres in the northwest part of the state features tall sand dunes and a marshy lowland bog where birds are often plentiful. Climb the sand dunes to the north and you will have an excellent view of Lake Michigan.

This is a great resource book for hiking enthusiasts who are interested in seeing some of the most scenic parts of the state. It can also be used to identify and visit hiking trails that many Hoosiers don't even know about.

ISBN-13: 978-1-4930-3497-0

Reviews on Great Outdoor Books

Everyone likes to read new books, whether it is strictly for pleasure or to learn something new. HOW members are no exception! Some of our favorites are outdoor guide books and identification books. Books that help us identify plants, mammals, fish, butterflies and birds are always popular. But we also love outdoor adventure books. Here is an outstanding identification book that you may want to add to your library and introduce to your readers as well:

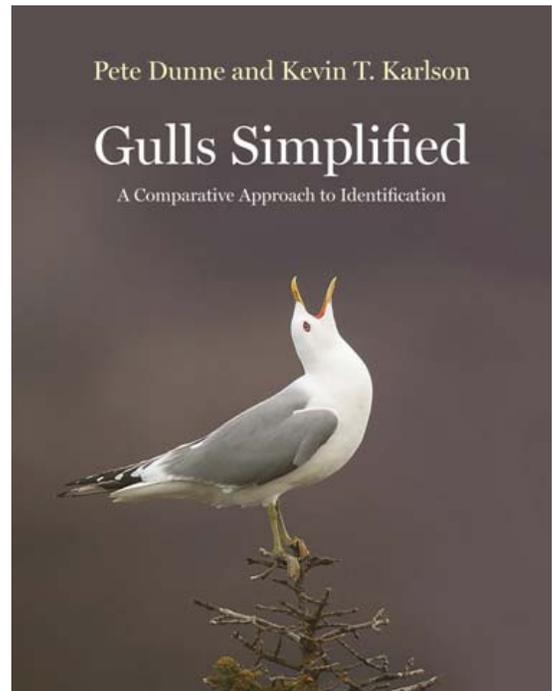
Gulls Simplified: A Comparative Approach to Identification, by Dunne and Karlson.

Book review by Tom Berg:

Princeton University Press has published an interesting new bird identification book, titled: ***Gulls Simplified: A Comparative Approach to Identification***, by Pete Dunne and Kevin T. Karlson. Gulls, or seagulls as inexperienced birders call them, are a common sight in the great outdoors. They are intelligent and adaptive creatures, and it is somewhat amazing to realize all of the places they can be found. From the shores of the Great Lakes to freshly plowed farm fields to McDonald's parking lots, gulls seem to be everywhere.

Many birders, myself included, are often confused by the seemingly endless varieties of gulls that we see in the field. These gulls are predominantly white with a splash of gray or black, and at first glance they all look alike!

But don't be intimidated. With a little instruction and practice they can be correctly identified. If you are interested in learning more about gulls, this is the book for you! This brand new photographic field guide helps reduce some of the confusion associated with identifying gulls. It features hundreds of beautiful full color photos, with many photos showing different species of gulls in the same frame. The authors then compare the similarities and the differences between them to aid in identification.



Not only does this field guide provide important details on plumage and color, but it also explains differences in body size, body shape, and variations based on various ages of birds. For example, a juvenile first year herring gull will not look exactly like a second year bird of the same species. Also, the breeding plumage of many gulls is different than their non-breeding plumage. It all seems very confusing at first, but as with anything, the more you study and learn the easier it gets. The photos in this book point out identifying marks on each gull species at different ages, which definitely helps sort them out.

Range maps showing migration routes and breeding locations also help rule-out similar looking species based on location, which can be very helpful in the field. ***Gulls Simplified*** provides a wealth of information for interested birders who want to learn more about these interesting birds. No one ever said learning to identify gulls would be easy, but with the help of this book the daunting task becomes manageable. There are photos (usually multiple photos) on nearly every one of the 208 pages of this book. The excellent color photos and detailed photo captions are an invaluable aid for birders of all experience levels.



PRINCETON
UNIVERSITY
PRESS

This is a great identification book for birding enthusiasts who want to learn more about North America's many species of gulls.

ISBN-13: 978-0691156941

HOW Member News

Doug Sikora Scores With Icy Walleye

HOW member Doug Sikora loves crappie fishing. He regularly fishes the Crappie USA tournament trail, but that doesn't mean he ONLY fishes for crappies. In fact, he loves pursuing just about all species of fish. And icefishing is almost as much fun for him as open-water fishing!

"Finding time to fish is the biggest hurdle for most people," said Sikora. "But it gets a lot easier when you're always carrying your sticks." That's for sure!

"I recently found myself on a business trip in Saginaw, Michigan, so I stopped at one of my favorite bait shops to stock up on supplies. The gentleman at Franks Great Outdoors said that I could find some ice on the bay a few miles north, and that anglers were getting some nice perch and walleye within walking distance of the shore. I had a few hours to spare, so I packed some gear, headed north and landed on a great evening bite."

"Adding to the experience was my ability to sight-fish due to the relatively clear ice and the shallow water bite. You can image my excitement when this dandy walleye came in to inspect my presentation. When it finally decided that my 1/8-ounce Rattl'n Flyer spoon looked like dinner, the fight was on!"

"Once I got the fish up close to the hole, I pulled the gaff out only to miss wildly on multiple attempts to stick the fish. As luck would have it, the prong finally hit its mark and I had my prize. Just in time to capture another great memory, in perfect light as the sun set over the bay."



Doug Sikora displays the nice-sized walleye that he caught on Saginaw Bay in January. Photo courtesy of Doug Sikora. **Note:** The lures shown below are Lindy Rattl'n Flyer spoons.



Bucket List Fishing, Texas Style

by Mike Schoonveld

My on-the-go fishing partner and I had plans to visit the Texas Gulf Coast a bit more than a year ago. Doug Wheelock and I have taken trips together from the Arctic to the Tropics, to both coasts and many points in-between.

Hurricane Harvey put the nix on our Texas plans last year, nearly flattening Rockport where we planned to headquarter. So we decided to try again. We just got back from a fishing trip in late February to the same vicinity. This one was headquartered in Port Aransas. It's close enough to Rockport that we fished quite close to that town for redfish and black drum on one of our inshore days.

The highlight of the trip was a couple of days fishing on party boats out of the Dolphin Docks in "Port A." Day one allowed me to check off an item on my fishing bucket list - fishing the offshore oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico. Our target specie was red snapper and we were quite successful. Once limits were caught for all 19 anglers on board (four snappers apiece), we finished the trip fishing for giant red drum (redfish).

By the time I reeled in my four snappers, I was ready for a break. I'd hooked and fought several others that escaped one way or another. Most of the snappers were between 12 and 16 pounds, and I can truthfully say they are one of the strongest fish I've ever hooked. Pound for pound, they are at the top of the list. After a short break, I was back at the rail for some catch and release action.

The next day, we went on a different boat to a new area - still from the Dolphin Docks. Our target this day was king



Above: Doug Wheelock displays one of the bruiser-sized red snappers that were biting near the oil rig.
Top: Party boats can get very close to the oil rigs. Mike Schoonveld photos.

Mike Schoonveld poses with a great catch of Texas king mackerel.

mackerel, aka, kingfish. I've caught kingfish previously and they are tough in their own way. Their initial run will blister your thumb and test your drag.

I doubt this will be my last trip to Port Aransas. It gave us a needed weather break from the Indiana winter, and compared to Florida, was refreshingly uncrowded. Port Aransas was also highly fishing-oriented. There's even a fishing tackle section in the local CVS pharmacy!

2019 Iron Man Hunt

by Gary Redmon

Each year many of us put in for tags for various western hunts and never get drawn. You can increase your odds by joining organizations that give away outdoor adventures and gear. I did so by joining USOC Outdoors Adventures TV, <https://myusoc.com> and this is my story.

After an unproductive Indiana deer season I tried my luck at writing a short essay and entering a contest called The Iron Man Hunt. This was a 3-days and night hunting adventure for a variety of game in Texas. The hunt took place in an open range environment with low cattle fencing. The Texas hunt was filmed for TV and sponsored by USOC Outdoor Adventure TV, the Pursuit Channel and Real Outfitters Ranches, Texas.

Dan Leonard, Host and Founder of USOC Outdoor Adventure TV notified me that I was the 2019 winner. "Me? I never win anything!" It was like winning the lottery, getting the opportunity to continue my season in a different environment. Arrangements were made with the USOC cameraman Tony Lasinki, who traveled from Syracuse, New York, to meet at the San Antonio International Airport. From San Antonio we made the two hour



Gary Redmon with his beautiful Texas buck.

drive to the 13,000 acres of the Real Outfitters Ranches. These properties consist of multiple ranches near the Texas towns of Eden and Ft. McKavett. Upon arrival, we were greeted by Mike Buie, Guide and Founder of Real Outfitters, <https://realoutfitters.com>.

Rising early before daylight the first morning, Tony and I were guided to a ground blind for whitetail deer. It was a cold, icy start. There was deer movement in the dawn's early light and several bucks and does came and went. Later a couple of larger bucks moved in slowly and I made the decision to take the most dominant one, a nice five year old, 9-point Texas whitetail.

With the buck loaded up we headed back for a late hardy Texas breakfast. In the early afternoon Tony and I moved to another location and hunted from a tower blind. Once again, several bucks and does came in and out of the area which resulted in a nice mature whitetail doe harvest in the late evening. As darkness took over, Tony and I continued the hunt with the Aurora SiOnyx day/night camera utilizing the night vision option. We

saw more deer and a couple feral hogs running around, but we were not able to get a good shot. Yes, I did hunt day and night for feral hogs, predators and exotics, all legal in Texas.

The second day started with a whitetail buck and doe already on the meat pole. Guide Mike Buie made the decision that we would go for free-roaming Texas exotics; blackbuck antelope, axis deer, Sitka deer or Texas Dall sheep. The black buck antelope, axis and Sitka deer were introduced in the early 1930's and are free-roaming invasive species found in 27 counties outside of high fence operations.

We continued down several ranch roads, and with the aid of binoculars we spotted a small herd of 7-8 Dall sheep bedded down with a couple nice rams. As we slowly stalked our way closer they decided not to lie around, taking off through the dense thorny bush. Luckily, we were able to keep them in sight. Finally, after a two mile stalk I was able to get a shot, allowing me to harvest a nice Texas Dall Ram. The Texas Dall sheep is a hybrid cross between a mouflon ewe and a Rambouillet ram.

After photos and a short celebration, we loaded the ram and started making our way back. Suddenly we came into

(continued next page)

a huge open range area, and several speedy blackbuck antelopes ran past us. That made a stalk impossible. The blackbucks continued to run from the bush into the endless open range. With directions from Mike, I put the 7mm-08 rifle/scope a little above the shoulder on the last blackbuck doe which was walking slowly. I was able to make a 400-yard shot to harvest my fourth Texas animal. I am told blackbuck antelope meat is one of the best exotic meats around with little or no gamey taste.

The hunting of non-native free-ranging exotics is open year-round, requiring a simple hunting license. A nonresident license can be purchased over the counter for the cost of \$48, which is a 5-day permit. Currently there are no game or possession limits on free-roaming exotics.

That night, as late evening came upon us, the hunting continued with Tony and I sitting in the darkness inside a tower blind. We repeated the previous night's hunt with the use of the Aurora SiOnyx day/night vision camera. With the help of the camera, darkness was turned into light and I had great visibility. Unfortunately, no feral hogs, exotics or predators could be spotted that night.

On the third day of the hunt, my guide, Mike, led us onto other ranches in search of feral hogs. We drove through several ranches consisting of thousands of acres of bushy, open Texas terrain. Several Sitka deer and blackbuck antelope were sighted, but since they were free-ranging a stalk was not to be had.



Guide Mike Buie (left) and Gary Redmon celebrate after a successful hunt for a Texas Dall ram out on the open range.



We continued on foot through several cattle gates and among the thorny cactus landscape in the early afternoon. After a short hike we found tracks and signs of feral hogs and by following the signs we located several hogs. After a slow stalk for over a mile through thorny brush, I was able to once again put the riflescope on a nice feral hog. I pulled the trigger, putting more meat in the freezer.

My Texas hunt resulted in a whitetail buck and doe, a Dall ram, a blackbuck antelope doe and a feral hog all in the cooler. This brought an exciting conclusion to a dream hunt. The Iron Man Hunt gave me many unique heart-pounding and challenging moments. The food, accommodations and camaraderie was five stars. Special thanks to Real Outfitters Ranches in Texas, <https://realoutfitters.com>, USOC Outdoors Adventures TV and the Pursuit Channel for selecting me for the 2019 Iron Man Hunt – the adventure of a lifetime.

This entire hunt will be aired on the Pursuit Channel, currently on DISH and DIRECT TV, and other local channels starting at the end of January and continuing through June, 2019.

Michael and Willie Ellis Go Cruising Again

Michael Ellis and his wife Willie enjoy traveling – especially aboard cruise ships. There are so many interesting and exciting places to see! They booked another cruise earlier this fall, and here is Michael’s report:

“We’re back from our 12 day cruise and we had a great time,” he said. “We visited islands in the eastern Caribbean and did some hiking on the islands. It was especially scenic hiking in the rain forest on St. Lucia, where we saw the Pitons (Petite Piton and Gros Piton mountain peaks).”

“We also got to visit three islands we had never visited before. Each one offered something a little different: Nevis, St. Barts (aka St. Barthelemy) and St. Croix (now part of the U.S. Virgin Islands).”

“To get to Nevis and St. Barts we took a high speed boat from St. Croix,” continued Ellis. “It took between 45 minutes and an hour. The big yachts and high-speed ferry boats are all required to dock inside Gustavia Harbor. It must be very exhilarating for those who fly in to the tiny airport on small planes, because the pilots have to quickly ‘dive in’ over the hill to land. It’s not for the faint of heart!”



Above: A view of Ellis’ cruise ship from St. Croix.
Below left: Michael and Willie Ellis with the very scenic Gros Piton mountaintop looming in the background.
Below right: A plane ‘dives in’ for a quick landing.
Bottom: A view of Gustavia Harbor on the French island of St. Barts. All photos by/courtesy of Michael Ellis.



lesser-known sister island to St. Kitts. We were on St. Croix for about 8 hours.”

“St. Barts was discovered by Columbus, but France took it from Italy. In 1946, France granted it independence, but it is still a French protectorate. It’s the island where the rich and famous go in the winter. The wealthy visitors have people – who have other people – to do all their tedious stuff (shopping, errands, etc).”

“Everything on St. Barts was very expensive. Our one hour taxi ride around the island was \$180.00 for two people, not including tip. For lunch, a sandwich, salad and soda (Coke) started at \$30 per person. There are many high-end designer shops on St. Barts, too. Willie took a photo a dress in the window of the Dolce & Gabbana boutique with her phone camera, and I said: ‘If you have to ask what the dress, shoes and necklace cost, then you can’t afford them.’”

“When we arrived on St. Barts, we had to go through French Customs. We were on Nevis and St. Barts for about 7 hours each. Nevis is the smaller,



Reef Fishing Lures Anglers to the Florida Keys

by Tom Berg

Last year my brother Mike and I made a trip to the Florida Keys to do some serious fishing. We set up our headquarters on Islamorada – known as the sport-fishing capital of the world! We stayed at the beautiful Pines and Palms Resort on Islamorada (www.pinesandpalms.com), and one of the fishing excursions I booked was on a party boat which was based out of Robbie's Marina, just down the road on Islamorada (www.robbies.com).

On the day of our trip, Mike and I climbed aboard the 65-foot party boat *Capt. Michael* and I stowed my camera bag in the cabin. Once everyone was aboard, the captain and the mate gave us a quick rundown of the rods and reels we would be using and exactly what type of bottom-fishing we would be doing once we arrived at the reef. We were all excited to get started!

It was a fairly short run out to the reef where we would be fishing. As the big boat motored along, an afternoon breeze kicked up and there was a slight chop on the water. A small pod of dolphins appeared off the starboard bow, porpoising along at nearly the same speed as the boat. They were fun to watch, but my attention was quickly diverted back to the stern of the boat as the mate started chopping-up small fish and squid to use as bait.



Above: Ballyhoo baitfish.
Right: Eating-size white grunt.

He was cutting the squid into bite-sized strips that we would add to our hooks once the boat stopped. When he thought he had enough squid, he started chopping and cutting the baitfish. These were long and slender ballyhoo – a very strange-looking baitfish (about 8-10" long) that has a thin bill jutting out two or three inches from its lower jaw, just like a swordfish (but in miniature form and on the lower jaw instead of the upper jaw). We would soon find out that the reef fish loved both the fish and the squid.

Once the captain found the spot on the reef that he was looking for, he stopped the boat and dropped anchor. The mate put a small bait bucket full of cut squid and cut ballyhoo at the feet of each angler and we all baited-up. The reef was about 35 feet down, and it didn't take long to drop our baits all the way to the bottom. It didn't take long to get a bite, either. In fact, the bites were almost

instant and non-stop! The problem was these fish were expert bait-stealers!

When I felt a fish bite, I immediately set the hook. I felt a fish and reeled him up to the surface, and saw that it was a brightly colored blue-striped grunt. These fish are yellow in color, with several bright blue stripes running the length of their bodies horizontally. They often have a black tail, also. This fish was a little small, so I released it.



The action continued fast and furious for small grunts of various kinds, but mostly white grunts and blue-striped grunts. The white grunts had a non-descript white-colored body, but their head and cheeks were marked with bright blue stripes. Several of the white grunts were good-sized,

so we kept them. We also started catching yellowtail snappers, and some of them were fairly, large, too. The large ones were put in the cooler and the small ones were released.

Of course, the small bait-stealers were ever-present. In fact, the grunts and snappers were so good at stealing our baits that they soon became a major annoyance. Since we were using sinkers that probably weighed a couple of ounces, it was a real pain to drop the bait all the way to the bottom, and then within seconds have your bait stolen. If you felt a nibble and didn't hook the fish, you might as well reel all the way back up to the surface to re-bait. My arms were getting tired!



At one point, an elderly couple fishing next to me on the rail called for the mate to come and help with a strange fish the gentlemen had brought up to the surface. I leaned over the rail to get a good look and saw that it was a scrawled filefish. It looked very bizarre! It was grayish-olive in color, but it had bright blue dots and worm-like markings

on its side (and black dots, too). The tail was large and fan-shaped, and its mouth looked like it was permanently puckered! But its strangest feature was the thin "horn" or spike sticking straight up out of its forehead! I had seen pictures of them before, but had never seen one in person. It was crazy looking!

As I was looking at the scrawled filefish, I suddenly heard a commotion near the back of the boat and saw that the captain had hooked a bigger fish. Throughout the trip, he had made a habit of free-lining a live bait off the stern in the hope that a larger fish would grab it. Then he would hand the rod off to one of the customers. As luck would have it, my brother Mike was standing nearby and he handed the rod to Mike.



The fish made several strong runs and Mike fought the fish as it started to circle the boat. Mike and the captain made their way towards the bow and the fish finally started to tire. Once Mike got it near the side of the boat, the captain reached out with a long-handled gaff and gaffed the fish. He hauled it aboard and we saw that it was a Little Tunny. The mate called it a bonito, which is one of the slang names for it. Although it wasn't very good to eat, it gave Mike a great fight and it would make good bait once it was cut up.



As soon as I got back to fishing, someone at the back of the boat hooked a grouper. It was not huge, but it put up a spirited fight. The captain landed it carefully at the stern and said it was a protected species of grouper (a Nassau grouper), so it would have to be released. It was beautiful with its marbled brown and white markings.

Top: A strange-looking scrawled filefish – look at the weird spike sticking straight up out of its head! **Middle:** Yellowtail snapper. **Bottom:** A strawberry grouper or graysby. Florida Keys photos (except filefish) by Tom Berg.

After the excitement of those larger fish, Mike and I got back to catching bottomfish at the rail. The white grunts were still biting feverishly, and as I reeled up what I thought was another grunt, I saw a pinkish-orange fish come to the surface. This fish was also panfish-sized, and it had orange polka-dots covering its entire body – including its tail and all of its fins. I asked the mate what kind of fish it was and he said it was a strawberry grouper.

He said strawberry groupers don't get much larger than the one I caught, and since it was good to eat I could keep it. But since we had plenty of yellowtail snappers and white grunts, I decided to release it. As soon as I did, Mike hooked another one and brought it over the rail, too! I almost thought it was the same fish, but Mike's fish had a slightly different spot pattern than mine. After checking my fish ID books at home later, I determined that its proper name was a graysby – another species of small reef-dwelling grouper.

All too soon, it was time for the boat to head back to the dock. We reeled in our lines and enjoyed the ride back to the marina. Once there, the mate cleaned everyone's fish and handed our fillets to us in a plastic bag. The captain suggested that we take some of our fresh fillets over to the Hungry Tarpon – the dockside restaurant right there in Robbie's Marina. So we did! The chef did an excellent job preparing them and Mike and I had a fresh fish feast!

To schedule your own trip on the *Capt. Michael*, call Robbie's Marina at 305-664-8070 or check out www.robbies.com. The *Capt. Michael* runs three trips per day: morning, afternoon and after dark. The cost is very affordable and you may either rent a rod and reel or bring your own.



Above: Mike Berg with a very hard-fighting Little Tunny.

Although fishing was the main reason Mike and I were in the Keys, there are plenty of other things to do there, too. Swimming, snorkeling, kayaking, paddle-boarding and parasailing are just a few of the activities that are available. Birding and eco-tours are favored by some visitors, too.



Above: The Key Largo Conch House serves an excellent breakfast for hungry anglers. **Above right:** Don't miss the fresh fish at Marker 88 on Islamorada.

One of the things I really liked about the Florida Keys is that there is no shortage of good places to eat. I have been to some ports where it was next to impossible to find something to eat after a hard day on the water! For breakfast, we really enjoyed the Key Largo Conch House

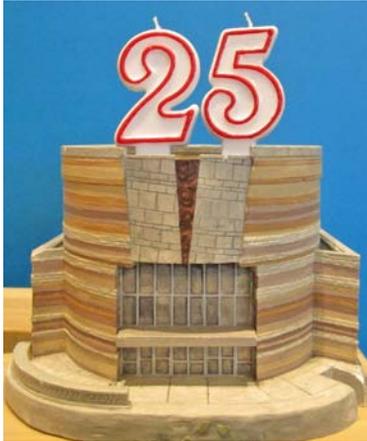


(www.keylargoconchhouse.com). The food was excellent and it had a down-home "Old Florida" feel. Lunch at the Hungry Tarpon inside Robbie's Marina (www.robbies.com) was great, too. One evening we had dinner at the Marker 88 (www.marker88.info) restaurant on Islamorada, and their fresh mahi-mahi was fabulous. The view of the setting sun from our beach-side table was hard to beat, too!

For more info about the fishing around Islamorada and the Florida Keys, check out the Florida Keys Visitor website at www.fla-keys.com. HOW members interested in making a trip can also visit www.fla-keys.com/media.

Troy McCormick Helps Celebrate 25 Years at the Falls of the Ohio

In addition to his online TV show (Bootprints.TV), HOW President Troy McCormick also runs his own consulting and design company (Natural Concepts). However, at one time he worked for the State of Indiana and was the park manager for the fledgling Falls of the Ohio State Park (SP).



“The Falls of the Ohio State Park is celebrating its Silver Anniversary this year,” stated McCormick, “and I was asked to be a guest speaker at their special event which was held on January 26th. It is hard to believe that it has been 25 years since we opened the Falls of the Ohio interpretive center in 1994.”

“As the first property manager of the Falls of the Ohio SP, I spent several years working with local, state, and federal agencies as we developed plans for building Indiana’s 20th state park. That included the actual cleanup of the property along Ohio River, leading fossil bed tours, working with exhibit designers and video producers, and overseeing the park and building construction. It was quite an honor to be involved in the development of a new state park, and it was a great thrill for me to re-live some of those memories during the celebration.”



Above: Troy McCormick talks about his time as the first park manager of Falls of the Ohio State Park.

Left: The anniversary cake at the 25 year celebration in January.

Membership Changes and New Contact Info

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

Richard Hines: P.O. Box 265, Edmonton, KY, 42129, phone: 270-348-4174,
email: richardhines.outdoors@gmail.com

The following HOW members have updated contact information:

John Davis: New home phone: 574-372-6188.
Michael Ellis: New email address: ellis_5612@yahoo.com.
Dean Farr: New mailing address: 337 Mary Lane, Crystal Lake, IL 60014.
Teena Ligman: New phone: 812-279-5547.
Paul Moore: New phone: 270-830-2798.
Nate Mullendore: New mailing address: 16487 Deerwood Rd, Garden City, MN 56034.
Jack Spaulding: New cell phone: 765-570-6701.
Louie Stout: New cell phone: 269-209-4868.

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 ScentLok (Nexus Outdoors)

The Silent Green Heron is a Stealthy Shore Bird



Close-up



Original



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was tougher than usual, but once we gave the hint that the photo showed feathers rather than fur, eight (8) HOW members were able to guess correctly. Mike Schoonveld, Mike Lunsford, Michael Ellis, Rich Creason, Phil Seng, Dave Hoffman, Jarrett Manek and Nate Mullendore all identified it. When we

drew a name at random for the Ultegra spinning reel donated by Shimano, Rich Creason was the winner. Congrats, Rich! We’ll get the reel to you.

As you can see in the photo to the left, the mystery creature for this issue was a Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*). Green herons are short and stocky (standing about 17 inches tall), with a large, sharp beak. Adults have a green back and an even darker green cap on their head. Their neck and chest is a deep chestnut brown, marked with mottled white stripes. Green herons can be found throughout the state of Indiana

Green herons are usually seen hunched down at the water’s edge, ready to strike at a wayward minnow or frog. Stealth and patience are two of the green

heron’s primary traits. These birds can stand perfectly still for what seems like an eternity, patiently waiting for dinner to get within striking distance. In this photo, the heron is stretching out his neck pretty far to get a good look at his unsuspecting lunch. In addition to its skill as a stealthy hunter, the green heron is also very smart. These birds are one of only a very few bird species in the world that actively use tools. Green herons have been known to drop a small feather or insect into the water and use it as a lure to attract small fish. When the fish comes in for a closer look, the heron nabs it!



For this issue, our friends at ScentLok and Traditions Media will be donating a great prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be an OZ Radial portable ozone generator – valued at nearly \$200. See below for more information on this issue’s question.

Another Nature Photo “What Is It?” Question

Tom Berg has posed another Nature Photo mystery. The photo shown at right is part of a close-up of a creature that lives right here in Indiana. It is found throughout the state, and you probably won’t see it in your back yard (although it is possible). Have you ever seen a color pattern on a Hoosier creature that looks like this?



This creature may be easy for some people to identify and harder for others. Do you know of any Hoosier creatures that look like this? As usual, you will have to identify the exact species. If you think it’s a species of warbler, for example, go ahead and guess “yellow-rumped warbler” (of course, it’s not a warbler). But if you think you know the answer, send an email to thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you are right, you will be eligible for this issue’s prize.

As mentioned above, ScentLok will donate a brand new OZ Radial 400B portable ozone generator for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. ScentLok’s ozone generator keeps your clothes and gear free of game-spooking odors and bacteria. ScentLok is a world leader in scent control products for serious hunters (see www.scentlok.com). If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw a winner at random from the correct entries. Nature photos 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.

Lodge® Manufacturing's Cook-It-All® Wins Design Innovation of the Year Award

South Pittsburg, TN: Known worldwide as the leading manufacturer of superior cast iron cookware, Lodge® Manufacturing's revolutionary Cook-It-All® won the first annual Housewares Design Innovation of the Year award. Judges selected the Cook-It-All from the 11 "Best in Category" housewares winners. The announcement was made on January 29, 2019 at the Las Vegas Market in Las Vegas, Nevada. Additionally, Lodge won "Best in Category" in Cookware and Bakeware category.

Products in the competition were selected by an independent panel of design and merchandising experts who conducted testing on hundreds of products in 11 categories, including Cookware and Bakeware, Countertop Beverage Appliances, Countertop Cooking/Food Prep Appliances, Cutlery/Cutting Tools, Dining/Entertainment, Smart Home and more.



Released in August 2018 and produced in Tennessee, the Cook-It-All brings unmatched versatility to campsites and the



act of cooking over an open fire. Featuring five cooking configurations from only two pieces of cast iron, users can grill, griddle, sauté, bake and even make pizza. Configurations include a 6.8-quart skillet/wok, a pizza oven, a camp Dutch oven and a 14-inch grill and griddle.

The Cook-It-All is currently available for purchase on the company's website, www.lodgemfg.com, and at Lodge Factory Stores.

Founded by Joseph Lodge in 1896, Lodge is the oldest family-owned (and operated) cast iron cookware company in the United States. The 123-year-old company produces more than 100 different cast iron cookware items in its two South Pittsburg, Tennessee foundries. Lodge employs over 400 American workers.

For more info, product photos or interviews, HOW members should contact Mark Kelly at Lodge Mfg. Call him at 423-837-

7181 (office) or 423-645-5511 (cell), or send an email: mkelly@lodgemfg.com.



HOW Supporting Member News

New Owners at Al's Goldfish Lure Company, Same Great Quality Fishing Lures

Eliot, ME: Al's Goldfish Lure Company has been under new ownership for just about a year now, but one of the things that hasn't changed is the quality of their legendary fishing lures. Jeff and Mandy DeBuigne quit their jobs in the corporate world to own and further this iconic New England brand, a brand that is still made right here in the USA.

If you think you have heard of this lure before, you are probably right. The famous Al's Original Goldfish Lure was named in 2006 by *Field and Stream* magazine as one of the "50 Greatest Lures of All Time", and in 2007 *Field and Stream* named the lure one of the "Top 10 Best Trout Lures" of all time. That is some pretty high praise, but these spoons deserve it. They have been around for a long time and they still catch lots of fish.

The company is not just sitting on their laurels, though. They also have a line of productive icefishing jigs, along with a new line of large open-water spoons. "We developed our larger Goldfish into what we call the Northern Edition for the Midwestern anglers who fish for the biggie freshwater fish like northern pike, muskies, walleye, bass and salmon," said Mandy DeBuigne. "People who've used them in that neighborhood have had great success." These larger spoons come in 1/2-ounce, 3/4-ounce and 1 1/4-ounce sizes, which are perfect for long-distance casting, even against the wind.

Media Contact:

HOW members may contact Mandy DeBuigne at Al's Goldfish Lure Company for more information on their famous line of fishing products. Give her a call at 413-543-1524 (office) or send her a quick email at: sales@alsgoldfish.com. Please check their website at: www.alsgoldfish.com.



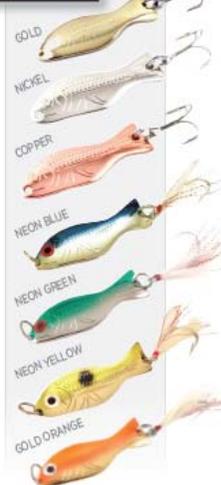
ALL COLORS
AVAILABLE WITH
SINGLE OR TREBLE
HOOK OPTION

SHOWN IN
ACTUAL SIZE

G300 1/2 OZ.



G400 3/4 OZ.



G500 1-1/4 OZ.



In 2006, *Field and Stream* magazine named Al's Original Goldfish lure one of the "50 Greatest Lures of All Time". In 2007, the lure made *Field and Stream's* "Top 10 Best Trout Lures" of all time.

HOW Supporting Member News

Ruger Awarded Firearms Manufacturer and Innovator of the Year at NASGW

Newport, NH: Last fall, Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. was recognized by the National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers (NASGW) as Firearms Manufacturer of the Year for the twelfth consecutive year and as Firearms Innovator of the Year for the third time.

Over 500 NASGW members met last October in Pittsburgh at the Annual Awards Dinner and Reception for the presentation of awards. Accepting these prestigious awards on behalf of Ruger was President and CEO, Chris Killoy.

“We are humbled to be recognized by the NASGW once again as Firearms Manufacturer and Innovator of the Year,” said Chris Killoy. “We remain committed to manufacturing innovative firearms and bringing them to market through our two-step distribution model.”

The NASGW is the organizer and sponsor of the NASGW Expo and Annual Meeting event. This annual event provides educational, marketing and communications opportunities to hunting and shooting sports wholesalers, manufacturers and sales professionals. The NASGW also uses this event to recognize manufacturers for their accomplishments from the previous year.

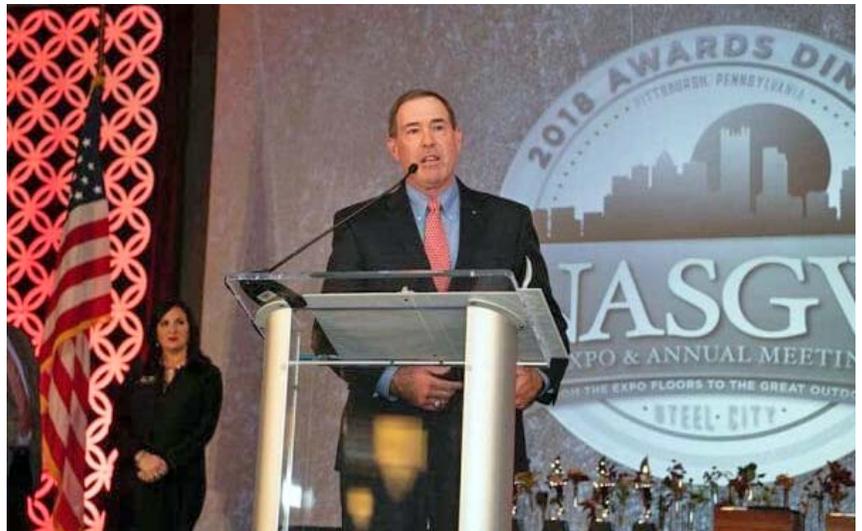
The Firearms Manufacturer of the Year recipient is determined by NASGW members who evaluate the performance of manufacturers on four key criteria: distribution policy; marketing, promotions and sales; logistics and operations; and NASGW and industry support.

This assessment of manufacturer performance is designed to provide a balanced appraisal that recognizes the best manufacturer in its category according to NASGW members.

The Firearms Innovator of the Year award is given to the company that is committed to developing unique products, services or strategies that set that company apart from its competitors; has made an outstanding contribution in furthering the image and development of shooting sports; enhances and increases significantly the growth and expansion of shooting sports; and actively supports NASGW and its wholesaler member firms.

Media Contact:

HOW members may contact Paul Pluff at Ruger for more information about the extensive line of award-winning Ruger firearms. Call him at 603-865-2668 or contact him by email at: ppluff@ruger.com. Alternately, visit www.Ruger.com or check out www.Facebook.com/Ruger. To find accessories for Ruger firearms, visit www.ShopRuger.com or your local independent retailer of Ruger firearms.



HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Al's Goldfish Lure Co. - www.alsgoldfish.com
Alps Brands - www.alpsbrands.com
Aquateko International - www.aquateko.com
Arctic Ice - www.arctic-ice.com
Arcus Hunting - www.arcushunting.com
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Backwoodsman Magazine - www.backwoodsmanmag.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
Buck Knives - www.buckknives.com
Bucket Grip - www.bucketgrip.com
Camp Chef - www.campchef.com
Cauldryn - www.cauldryn.com
Celox Medical - www.celoxmedical.com
Church Tackle Company - www.churchtackle.com
Cocoons Eyewear - www.cocoonseyewear.com
Costa Sunglasses - www.costadelmar.com
Cotton Carrier - www.cottoncarrier.com
Cuda Fishing Tools - www.cudabrand.com
Danner Boots - www.danner.com
Daisy Outdoor Products - www.daisy.com
Environ-Metal, Inc. - www.hevishot.com
Finn Tackle Company - www.finnspoons.com
Fisherbeck Jigs - www.fisherbeck.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
Gerber Fishing - www.gerberfishing.com
Glacier Glove - www.glacierglove.com
Grundens USA - www.grundens.com
Gruv Fishing - www.gruvfishing.com
Gumleaf Boots - www.gumleafUSA.com
Gun Protect - www.mygunprotect.com
Hart Productions - www.hartproductions.com
Hawke Sport Optics - www.hawkeoptics.com
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - www.henryUSA.com
HHA Sports - www.HHA sports.com
Hodgdon Powder Co. - www.hodgdon.com
Hoosier Trapper Supply - www.hoosiertrappersupply.com
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - www.hmhco.com
HT Enterprises - www.htent.com
Indianapolis Zoo - www.indianapoliszoo.com
Irish Setter Boots - www.irishsetterboots.com
Kent Cartridge - www.kentgamebore.com
Kruger Optical - www.krugeroptical.com
LaCrosse Footwear - www.lacrossefootwear.com
Lawrence County Tourism - www.limestonecountry.com
LensPen - www.lenspen.com
Leupold - www.leupold.com
Lodge Manufacturing - www.lodgemfg.com
Mack's Lure - www.mackslure.com
Mathews Archery - www.mathewsinc.com
Midway USA - www.midwayUSA.com
Mossy Oak - www.mossyoak.com
Musselhead Tackle - www.musselhead.com
MyTopo - www.mytopo.com
National Shooting Sports Foundation - www.nssf.org
National Wild Turkey Federation - www.nwtf.org
NextGen Baits - www.nextgenbaits.com
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - www.mossberg.com
Otis Technology - www.otistec.com
Otter Lures - www.otterlures.com
Outdoor Guide Magazine - www.outdoorguidemagazine.com
Outdoor Sportsman Group - www.outdoorsg.com
PahaQue Wilderness - www.pahaque.com
Pheasants Forever - www.pheasantsforever.org
Plano Synergy - www.planosynergy.com
PowerPro Lines - www.powerpro.com
Princeton University Press - www.press.princeton.edu
PRO's Soft-Bait Glue - www.PROsoftbaitglue.com
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
Sitka Gear - www.sitkagear.com
Snag Proof Lures - www.snagproof.com
Solution Products - www.solutionproducts.net
South Shore CVA - www.southshorecva.com
SportDOG Brand - www.sportdog.com
St. Croix Rods - www.stcroixrods.com
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - www.ruger.com
Swab-Its - www.swab-its.com
Sweet Owen CVB - www.sweetowencvb.org
Tales End Tackle - www.talesendtackle.com
Target Communications Outdoor Books - www.targetcommbooks.com
The Catch & Release Shop - www.prints.fish
Thompson-Pallister Bait Company - www.lenthompson.com
Tink's - www.tinks.com
Toyota Motor Sales - www.toyotanewsroom.com
Traditions Media - www.traditionsmedia.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - www.ttiblakemore.com
Vexilar, Inc. - www.vexilar.com
White Flyer Targets - www.whiteflyer.com
Whitetails Unlimited - www.whitetailsunlimited.com
Widener's Reloading & Shooting Supply - www.wideners.com
Winchester Ammunition - www.winchester.com
W.R. Case - www.wrcase.com
Yamaha Marine Group - www.yamahaoutboards.com

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

Hoosier Outdoor Writers

Application For New Membership

(Check Desired Classification below)

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

Personal Information:

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

Professional Information:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Signature: _____

Sponsor: _____

Who We Are

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

What We Do

These are the purposes of HOW:

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

What We Stand For

These are what we strive to accomplish:

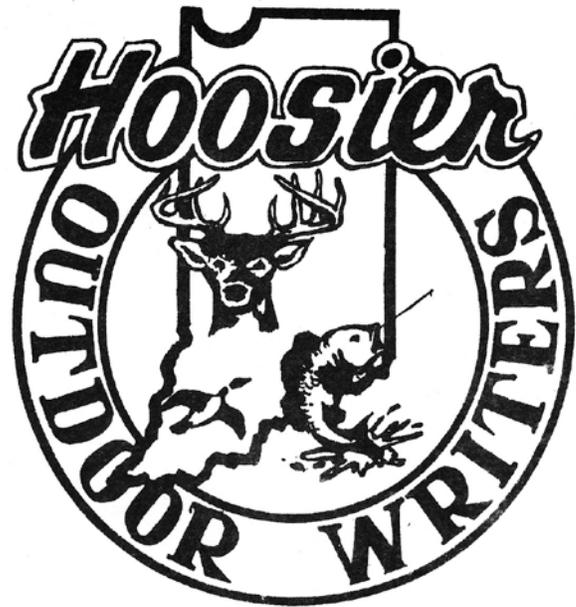
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor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

Membership Requirements

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

1. Active

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



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

2. Associate

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

3. Supporting

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

4. Active Student

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

5. Associate Student

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

Calendar of Events

Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show: February 15-24, 2019
(www.IndySportShow.com)
Indianapolis, IN

Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo: February 21-24, 2019
(www.IndySportShow.com)
Indianapolis, IN

HOW 2019 Annual Conference: April 12-14, 2019
(www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org)
Fair Oaks Farms Complex
Fair Oaks, IN

NRA 2019 Annual Meetings: April 26-28, 2019
(www.nra.org)
Indianapolis, IN

POMA 2019 Annual Conference: June 18-20, 2019
(www.professionalooutdoormedia.org)
Wichita, KS

OWAA 2019 Annual Conference: June 22-24, 2019
(www.OWAA.org)
Little Rock, AR

ICAST Show 2019: July 9-12, 2019
(www.ICASTfishing.org)
Orlando, FL

AGLOW 2019 Annual Conference: September 16-19, 2019
(www.aglowinfo.org)
LaCrosse, WI

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*.