

The Blade

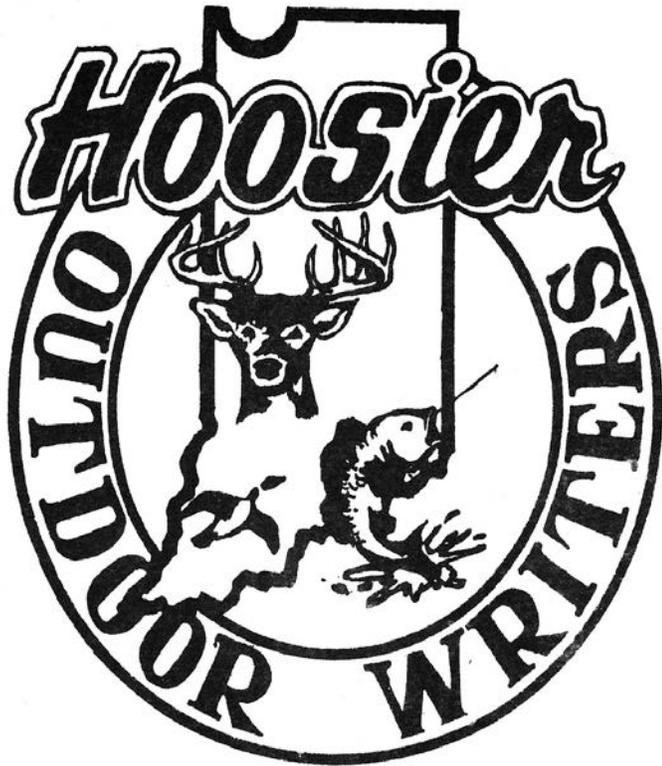
2022 Pre-Conference Issue

March - April 2022

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Cooper's Hawk After A Successful Hunt", 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: An adult Cooper's hawk keeps a sharp lookout after capturing a small bird amid the branches of a large maple tree. These hawks fly at amazing speeds through thick foliage, and sometimes pick-off an unsuspecting bird as it sits on a tree branch or bird feeder. Photo by Tom Berg.

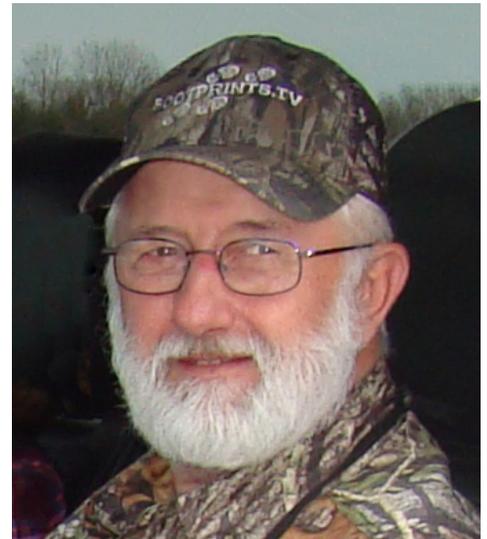
President's Message

by Kenny Bayless (*The Redneck Quaker*)

All Good Things Must Come to an End

As I write these final words, I'm thinking back on some of the great memories of the outdoor experiences I've had.

The outdoors men and women of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers organization are a wonderful and dedicated group that supports all aspects of the outdoors. I've been privileged to be the President of HOW for the last two years, and I'd like to thank Executive Director Tom Berg for helping me along the way.



Some years ago I met a gentleman in Parke County while visiting my friend and avid outdoorsman, David Blake. That gentleman is our fellow HOW member Troy McCormick. Troy has traveled the world and lived a life many people only dream about. Troy is the producer of a very popular TV hunting and fishing show called Bootprints TV. As time passed, Troy and I became very good friends, which led to me becoming a cameraman for his show.

I remember we filmed an episode on fishing for smallmouth bass in Canada. Troy's father and my son, Seth, went along. I nicknamed it a 'Dad and Lad' Fishing Adventure. The name of the episode is *Fishing on Little Eva*. Great memories there.

I also remember a day of halibut fishing out of Valdez, Alaska. As we departed port, the captain said it might get rough out in the open water. I told him I would be fine since I took my motion sickness pills, Bonine, the previous night before I went to bed.

After about two hours of jumping the waves, we dropped anchor. My son Seth had come along with us, and within minutes he said "Look at that!" His pole was bending double while in the rod holder. As he took the rod in hand his eyes bugged out and every muscle in his body went tense to fight the biggest fish of his life. Everyone was cheering him on as he lifted and cranked the reel against a big halibut. You can bet I had the video camera going.

I was next with another halibut on the line, and I was worn out just before the fish surfaced. The deckhand helped roll the fish into the boat. About this time, the waves were really rolling and our friend Jim was chumming on our side of the boat. Then it hit me, too, so in the cabin I went. I shouldn't have done that, though, and soon I had to use the wastebasket because I couldn't make it out in time.

Just then, Jim's pole doubled over, not to come back straight. He set the hook and the fight was on, but the rolling sea won again and Jim handed the pole to Seth. Jim went back to chumming. After a courageous battle, Seth got the fish to surface and to our surprise the deckhand pulled out a small pistol and shot the fish three times. He said a fish that size is hard to get in the boat and it could break your leg from flopping around. It weighed in at 80 lbs. More fond memories!

HOW is a wonderful group. I've enjoyed serving as President, but now it is time for someone else to take the reins. My last advice is to **"Keep your gunpowder dry!"**

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents and Memorial Section

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

Trent Marsh (Active)
Larwill, IN
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
Gene Clifford
Jack “Big Jake” Cooper
Mark Cottingham
Jerry Criss
Gary “Dox” Doxtater
Dick Forbes
Tom Glancy – HOW President 1977
Dale Griffith
Fred Heckman
Marty Jaranowski – HOW President 1996
Jack Kerins
Mike Lyle – HOW President 1981
Ralph “Cork” McHargue – HOW President 1976
Dick Mercier
Bob Nesbit
Hellen Ochs
Jack Parry
Harry Renfro
“Bayou” Bill Scifres – HOW President – 6 Terms
George Seketa
Hal Shymkus
Al Spiers
Robert “Doc” Stunkard
Butch Tackett
John Trout, Jr.
Joe West

Past Presidents of HOW

“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1969
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1970
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1971
Bill Church	1972
Rick Bramwell	1973
Jack Ennis	1974
Phil Junker	1975
Ralph McHargue	1976
Tom Glancy	1977
Bob Rubin	1978
Jack Alkire	1979
Louie Stout	1980
Mike Lyle	1981
Jim “Moose” Carden	1982
Jim “Moose” Carden	1983
John Davis	1984
John Davis	1985
Ray Harper	1986
Ray Harper	1987
Ray Dickerson	1988
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1989
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1990
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1991
Jack Spaulding	1992
Jack Spaulding	1993
John Rawlings	1994
Phil Bloom	1995
Marty Jaranowski	1996
John Martino	1997
Mike Schoonveld	1998
Jack Spaulding	1999
Jack Spaulding	2000
Sharon Wiggins	2001
Phil Junker	2002
Larry Crecelius	2003
Bryan Poynter	2004
Phil Bloom	2005
Brian Smith	2006
Brian Smith	2007
Brent Wheat	2008
Bryan Poynter	2009
John Maxwell	2010
Brandon Butler	2011
Josh Lantz	2012
Ben Shadley	2013
Bob Sawtelle	2014
Alan Garbers	2015
Ken McBroom	2016
Don Cranfill	2017
Troy McCormick	2018
Mike Schoonveld	2019
Kenny Bayless	2020
Kenny Bayless	2021

It's Time to Renew Your HOW Membership

This is a friendly reminder that dues renewal notices were sent out to HOW members at the beginning of January. If you have not updated your Directory listing and sent it in with your dues check, you are late! There is no time like the present to get it done.

We all hope 2022 will be a great year, and certainly better than last year when we had to cancel the HOW conference. Everything is still full steam ahead for the 2022 HOW conference at Turkey Run State Park, and we hope everyone can attend. This is the Pre-Conference issue of *The Blade*, so you will find plenty of information about the upcoming conference and meeting in the next several pages, so keep reading.

Membership in the Hoosier Outdoor Writers provides a long list of benefits, including this full-color bi-monthly newsletter, *The Blade*. It is sent out via email and is also posted online. Other benefits include our annual Awards-in-Craft contests, the HOW Facebook page, a special "Nature Photo" contest inside each issue of the newsletter, our annual conference (including seminars and guest speakers), our annual HOW Fun Shoot (usually sporting clays or skeet), an official HOW membership card which provides product discounts and allows entry to outdoor shows and similar functions, a membership directory which lists all Individual members and Supporting members, and members-only access to the HOW website.

Of course, HOW membership also provides the opportunity for networking, the chance to learn new things, improve your craft and make new friends. Friendships formed at HOW functions can last a lifetime!

Dues for Active members is still \$30 and dues for Associate members remains \$25. We are happy to accept personal checks or money orders. Please make all checks payable to HOW. We also accept credit cards and paypal on the HOW website – simply click on the Dues & Donations tab on our home page (www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org). Then you can click on the proper membership level and pay right there. We prefer that payment be made by check, though, because paypal does charge us a fee for the service.

The officers and executive committee at the Hoosier Outdoor Writers are looking forward to a fun-filled 2022 and we hope you will join us. Thank you for your continued support – we could not do what we do without you!

Don't forget to send in your 2022 HOW membership renewal!

**RENEWAL
REMINDER**

The Annual HOW Fun Shoot

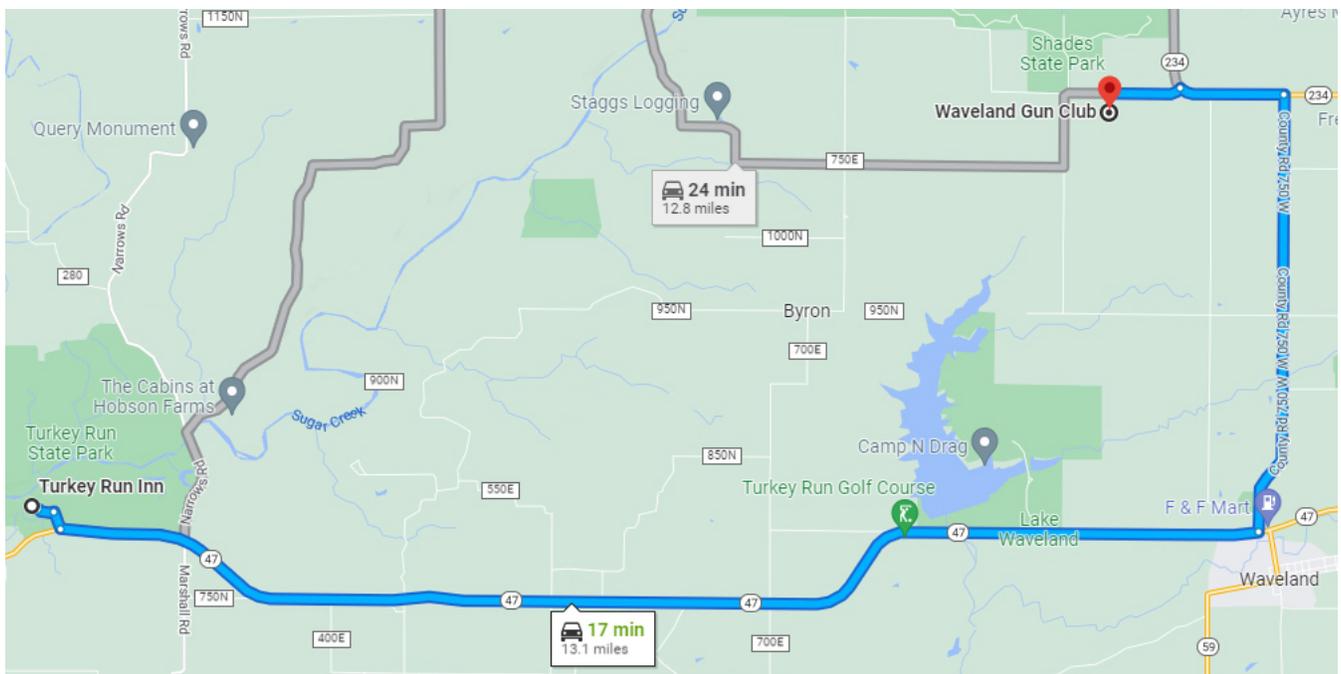
The 2022 HOW Conference will begin with the HOW Fun Shoot. It has become a tradition for the shooters in our membership to get together and break a few clay targets, have some fun and renew old friendships on the Friday before the Annual Meeting. Some of our participants are experienced shooters while others are new to the sport and are still learning, but all skill levels are welcome!

Since the 2022 HOW Conference will be held at Turkey Run State Park in Parke County, we will be visiting the Waveland Gun Club just south of Shades State Park for the HOW Fun Shoot. The address is 8609 W 800 S, Waveland, IN. It is 17 minutes away from Turkey Run.

We will meet on Friday, April 1 at 1:00pm (local time) and start shooting as soon as everyone arrives. If you have trouble finding your way to the club, you may call the gun club (765-366-3426). But it should be easy to find (see the map below). Feel free to use Google Maps or plug the address into your GPS or your smartphone.

This year we will be shooting skeet (100 targets), and it should be lots of fun. The cost for the shoot will be only \$10 since we are bringing our own clay targets. In fact, this year we have two sponsors for the Fun Shoot. Our friends at **White Flyer Targets** will be supplying the clay targets, and **Winchester Ammunition** will be providing the shotshells to all of the participating shooters free of charge. Both companies are HOW Supporting Members, so please support them in your work whenever you can. Be sure to bring your own shotgun and hearing protection to the shoot.

We should have plenty of time to finish shooting and get to Turkey Run to get ready for our “Friday Evening Barbecue” at 6:00pm. Come on out and join the fun. See you at the gun club!

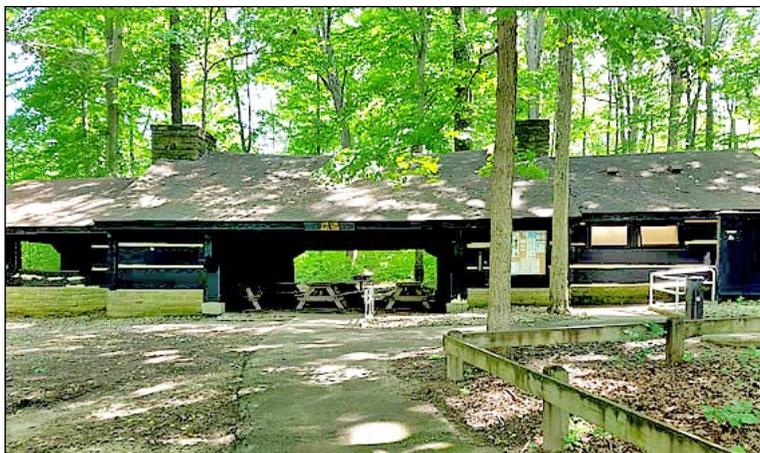


The Friday Evening BBQ

As is our custom, many HOW members will gather and socialize on the evening before the main conference meeting at an informal barbecue. Since the HOW conference takes place at Turkey Run State Park, we will hold our barbecue inside the park at the **Big Log Shelter**. This shelter is located in the woods off the road to the Nature Center. It has its own large parking lot and modern restrooms at one end.

A big thank you goes out to Park Manager Chris Newcomb for reserving the shelter for us.

The barbecue will begin at 6:00pm, so come with a healthy appetite! There will be plenty of time to meet up with old friends and make some new ones as the food is being grilled. HOW Vice President Phil Seng is in charge of the BBQ this year, so he will be doing the cooking – along with a couple of other volunteers. There will be plenty to eat and drink, and it will be a great time to see some friends that you may not have seen in a few years!



Turkey Run State Park Manager Chris Newcomb and his two assistant managers, along with Turkey Run Naturalist Aaron Douglass, will be on hand to greet the HOW membership and talk a little about the park. They will be happy to answer any questions we have about the park, too.

NOTE: Our good friends at **Roeslein Alternative Energy** have sponsored this year's BBQ, so be sure to thank Brandon Butler from Roeslein when you see him at this event or at the meeting on Saturday.

We hope everyone can make it to the BBQ this year. If you would like to attend but have not reserved a spot yet, please contact Tom Berg ASAP and he will get you on the list.

The 2022 HOW Conference

Get Ready for the 2022 Annual Conference

As was previously announced in the *The Blade*, the 2022 HOW Conference is scheduled to be held in west-central Indiana at **Turkey Run State Park** in Parke County. The Covid Omicron surge appears to be dissipating fast, so that's good and we are planning for the group to meet and socialize as usual.

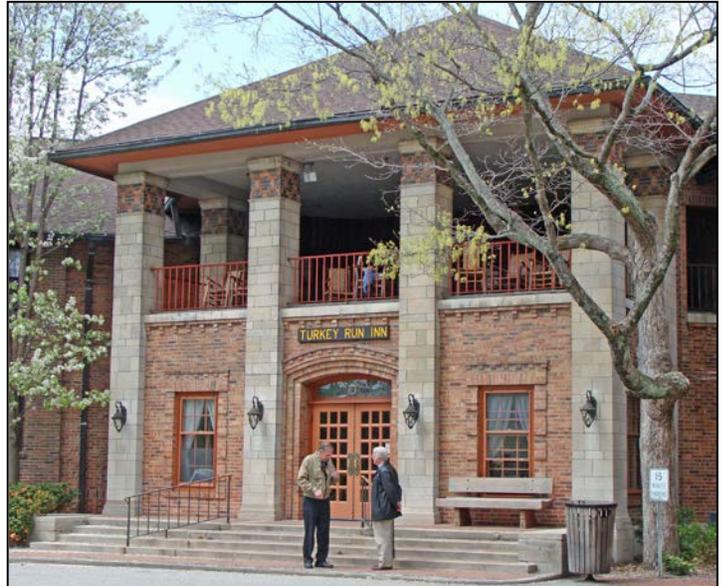
As everyone knows, the 2021 conference was cancelled due to restrictions and lockdowns caused by Covid-19. Things are looking much better now, and we have confirmed the new dates with personnel at Turkey Run. The 2022 HOW conference will take place on the weekend of **April 1-3**, with the main meeting taking place at the Turkey Run Inn on **Saturday, April 2**.

The date of this conference was selected very carefully to minimize conflicts with Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day and the start of turkey season, so hopefully most HOW members will be able to plan their schedules in advance and attend. So be sure to **SAVE THE DATE!**

Of course, Turkey Run State Park is a very beautiful park with plenty to see and do. Whether you enjoy canoeing, hiking, fishing, bird-watching, photography, nature watching or just about any other outdoor activity, Turkey Run can fit the bill. HOW members should definitely head for Parke County in April and join the fun!

The HOW conference is almost here, so hopefully you have already made your plans to attend! See page 12 for a copy of the conference registration form. If you haven't registered by now, you will need to let Tom Berg know ASAP otherwise there may not be a spot for you at lunchtime.

As usual, HOW members and guests may attend as much or as little of the conference as their schedules allow. Many members come only for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, and that's fine. For those who are interested in arriving early for the conference, we will have our annual HOW Fun Shoot on Friday afternoon, April 1 (see page 6). That will be followed by our Friday evening BBQ at the **Big Log Shelter** inside Turkey Run. See page 7 for more info on the BBQ.



The Turkey Run Inn will welcome HOW members in early April at the start of our 2022 conference. Make your plans to attend now! Photo by Tom Berg.

Save The Date!

Conference: April 1-3, 2022
Annual Meeting: April 2, 2022

For the main meeting on Saturday, we will have plenty of interesting seminars and speakers which can provide material for several articles and stories. We will also announce the winners of our annual HOW Awards-in-Craft contests and the TIP writing contest, and elect new officers. We hope to have a fishing/canoeing outing on Sugar Creek on Sunday, April 3, too.

For everyone who has come to love the HOW Raffle over the past several years, we are hoping to make it even bigger and better this year. It will be hard to top the quality and quantity of the last few years, but we will do our best! It's actually looking very good, with lots of great outdoor products from our many Supporting Members. If you haven't attended a HOW conference recently, come see what it's all about!

(continued next page)

Speaking of the HOW Raffle, we are planning to auction-off another fabulous **African Safari/Hunting Trip** for two at this year's conference, similar to what we did two years ago. See Tom Berg's article about his brother Mike's trip on pages 19-20 and the info on pages 10-11 for more details on this South African safari!

Whether you plan to attend the entire conference weekend or just the annual meeting on Saturday, the trip to Turkey Run State Park will definitely be worth it. **Don't miss the 2022 HOW conference!**

Here is a brief preview of the speakers already lined-up to make presentations at the conference:

- **The Cool Technology Behind Today's Cellular Trail Cameras**

Trent Marsh, the editorial manager for SPYPOINT cellular trail cameras, will describe how these trail cameras work and how they continue to grow in popularity. He will also explain that even though the userbase is continually expanding, there are still major misconceptions about how the technology actually functions and what the cameras can and cannot do.

He will take us through the latest advanced trail cameras from SPYPOINT, and lay out the details of cellular trail cameras – including best practices, misconceptions and benefits. From advanced AI species filters to things like dual-sim configurations, the lowdown on what trigger speed really means, and how you've probably been using trail cameras all wrong for the last decade, Trent is going to be covering a lot of ground.

Any HOW member who uses trail cameras for scouting before, during and/or after Indiana's hunting seasons – or even those who use trail cameras for security or other reasons – should be sure to sit in on Trent's presentation. It will certainly be worth your time and attention.



Trent Marsh from SPYPOINT is a true expert when it comes to advanced cellular trail cameras.

- **Indiana's Raptors – Live Birds of Prey**

Teresa Rody, the Interpretive Manager for the IDNR's Upper Wabash Interpretive Services and the Salamonie Raptor Center, will be bringing several live birds of prey for a special demonstration at the HOW meeting. Raptors, or birds of prey, include several species of birds that mainly hunt and feed on animals that are relatively large when compared to themselves. Eagles, hawks, owls and falcons are some of the birds that quickly come to mind when the term raptor is mentioned.



Teresa Rody from the Salamonie Interpretive and Nature Center with one of the resident great horned owls.

Teresa Rody will bring a variety of hawks and owls from the Salamonie Raptor Center to show HOW members just how large (or small) some of these birds of prey really are, and describe how they live and hunt and other interesting facts about them. She may even bring a bald eagle if it is available. In the photo at left, she holds a great horned owl during a recent demonstration.

Birds at the Salamonie Raptor Center are used during educational programs for young people, families and other members of the community. Whether it is a red-tailed hawk, a barred owl or a peregrine falcon, it is always impressive to see these majestic birds "up close and personal". Even the smaller raptors like the American kestrel, the eastern screech owl and the sharp-shinned hawk are exciting to see for most people. Rody is planning to have some of these very birds at the HOW conference for us to see.

- **A Look at Indiana’s Wetlands and Their Conservation**

Ducks Unlimited’s External Affairs Manager for the Great Lakes and Atlantic Region, Chris Sebastian, knows a thing or two about wetlands and wetlands conservation. It’s a big part of his job! After all, Ducks Unlimited is the leader in wetlands conservation. He will discuss how wetlands and marshlands fuel our outdoors adventures in Indiana, and why keeping these habitats healthy requires plenty of time, money and expertise.

During Sebastian’s presentation, he will give us a multimedia tour across the state, from the northeast potholes region all the way south to Hovey Lake Fish and Wildlife Area near the Ohio River. He will show how a multitude of partnerships have conserved more than 30,000 acres of wetlands for the benefit of Hoosier hunters, anglers and trappers – and the wide variety of wildlife that lives there.

Members of the outdoors media play a crucial role in wetlands conservation, and this interactive conversation will get you familiar with some of the biggest the issues facing our marshes.



Chris Sebastian from Ducks Unlimited will talk about the importance of wetlands for ducks and a multitude of other wildlife species.

- **Sportsmen’s Benevolence Fund and Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry**

Two great programs that provide help to needy families in Indiana are the Sportsmen’s Benevolence Fund and Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry. The Sportsmen’s Benevolence Fund is administered by the DNR Division of Law Enforcement, which provides grants to Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry, the Dubois County Sportsmen Club, and Hunters and Farmers Feeding the Hungry

to pay for processing fees when hunters donate legally harvested deer. Capt. Jet Quillen, the Public Relations Captain for the IDNR, Law Enforcement Division, oversees the Sportsmen’s Benevolence Fund in addition to his many other duties (he is also a board member for the Turn in a Poacher (TIP) Program).



As Public Relations Captain, Capt. Jet Quillen is responsible for statewide public relations programs and for overseeing Law Enforcement Division’s public spokesperson team.

to pay for processing fees when hunters donate legally harvested deer. Capt. Jet Quillen, the Public Relations Captain for the IDNR, Law Enforcement Division, oversees the Sportsmen’s Benevolence Fund in addition to his many other duties (he is also a board member for the Turn in a Poacher (TIP) Program).

Capt. Quillen will lead a presentation about these groups and he will be assisted by Deb Treesh, the Executive Director of Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry. The Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry organization encourages hunters and farmers to donate large game (like deer) and livestock to the *“Meat” the Need* program through participating meat processors (85 statewide), raises financial support to pay processing fees on these donations, and gives this nutritious meat/protein to hunger relief agencies. The individuals and families served are reached through food banks and other hunger relief agencies whose services are strictly for low income and poor populations within each county in Indiana.

The participating organizations notify food banks throughout Indiana when venison is ready to be collected from certified Sportsmen’s Benevolence Fund butchers. The food banks distribute venison to soup kitchens and food pantries. The process to donate is simple and the IDNR, Law Enforcement Division is making it a point to promote and advertise this very unique and beneficial program.

In addition to the speakers and seminars on Saturday, a slate of new officers will be presented to the membership and the volunteers will be elected. After the business meeting, we will all enjoy a buffet lunch prepared by the chefs from the Turkey Run Inn's kitchen. A big thank-you goes to the **Indiana Destination Development Corporation** and the **National Shooting Sports Foundation** for sponsoring the lunch this year at the HOW conference.

After lunch (and our third seminar), there will be an awards presentation by (and sponsored by) the **Indiana TIP Board** (Turn in a Poacher/Polluter) for this year's TIP Writing Contest. It will be followed by the awards for the annual HOW Awards-in-Craft contests. **Toyota Motor Sales** is the AIC sponsor again this year and they have our sincere thanks.

Of course, we are planning another excellent **HOW Raffle** this year, too! The annual raffle is the highlight of the meeting for some of our members, and they won't be disappointed this year. Our previous raffle at the 2020 meeting at the Indiana Fairgrounds was a good one, but the raffle we have in store for you this year at Turkey Run will be even better!

Another Amazing HOW Raffle!



We have received a great variety of exceptional outdoors products for this year's raffle, including many from brand new Supporting Members. For those who can't wait for the big day to hear what we will be raffling off, here is a partial list that should convince you to attend and bring along lots of extra cash:

Shooting and hunting fans will be excited to learn that we have multiple firearms for this year's raffle. We have a beautiful Ruger American Rifle with *Go Wild* camo, and it is chambered in 6.5 Creedmoor. We also have an awesome Mossberg 500 Turkey shotgun (.410 bore) with Mossy Oak *Bottomland* camo, a very nice Henry .22 caliber lever-action Octagon Frontier Rifle, and a great Mission Archery compound bow.

We also have a cool Summit treestand, high-tech trail cameras, top-of-the-line Alps backpacks, fishing rods and reels, lots of fishing lures, icefishing gear, shooting and hunting gear, ammunition, optics, books, electronics, knives, archery gear, a reloading press, camping gear, outdoors apparel and much more. More items are still coming in, too, so start saving your money for tickets now. You must be present to win, so don't miss out on this fun event!



HOW Outings for Members and Spouses on Sunday

For all HOW members and their spouses who are planning to stay overnight until Sunday, we are still hoping to confirm a canoe outing on Sugar Creek. Don Cranfill is working on it with the local canoe outfitter, but it is not confirmed yet. Of course, an outing on the creek is also weather-dependent.



Even if we don't go canoeing – or if you would prefer to do some hiking instead – Turkey Run State Park is home to plenty of trails to keep you busy. Fishing from shore is a good option, too. And hiking can be fun even if the creek is running high and muddy.

Rest assured that we are working hard to make sure this conference is worth the trip. It will definitely be one that you won't want to miss!

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Annual Conference Registration



Turkey Run Inn at Turkey Run State Park, Parke County – April 1-3, 2022

This registration form is for the Annual HOW Meeting on Saturday, April 2nd (8:00am – 4:30pm)

Information to appear on meeting 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? _____

Conference Registration Fees:

HOW Members (and spouses): \$40.00 each (\$40 X number attending) = _____

Non-HOW Members: \$45.00 each (\$45 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 2, 2022.

Please print this application and mail it along with your check (make checks payable to "HOW") to the following address:

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

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

HOOSIER OUTDOOR WRITERS

Annual Meeting on April 2, 2022

Turkey Run State Park

Turkey Run Inn – Lusk Room

MEETING SCHEDULE

8:00-9:00am

Registration, continental breakfast.

9:00-9:05am

Opening remarks by HOW President Kenny Bayless. Then Elaine Bedel, CEO of the Indiana Destination Development Corp/Visit Indiana will greet the HOW membership.

9:05-9:15am

Turkey Run SP Interpretive Naturalist Aaron Douglass will talk a little about the park itself and Turkey Run's original writer, Juliet Strauss.

9:15-10:15am

Seminar #1: “**Technology and Today's Cellular Trail Cameras**”. Trent Marsh from SPYPOINT cellular trail cameras will describe how modern trail cameras work and the technology behind them. He will also talk about best practices, major misconceptions, benefits (and more) of these useful electronic tools.

10:15-10:20am

Short break.

10:20-11:10am

Seminar #2: “**Indiana's Awesome Birds of Prey**”. Teresa Rody, the Interpretive Manager for IDNR's Upper Wabash Interpretive Services and Salamonie Raptor Center will have several live birds of prey to show HOW members. She will talk about how these interesting raptors live and hunt in Indiana's landscape.

11:10-11:30am

Business meeting, Slate of new officers, election of new officers for 2022/2023.

11:30-12:30pm

Buffet lunch and social time for members, sponsored by the NSSF.

12:30-1:30pm

Seminar #3: “**Indiana's Wetlands and Their Conservation**”. Ducks Unlimited's External Affairs Manager for the Great Lakes and Atlantic Region, Chris Sebastian, will discuss how healthy wetlands and marshlands fuel our outdoors adventures in Indiana. He will also familiarize us with some of the biggest issues facing our marshes today.

1:30-2:00pm

TIP Awards-In-Craft presentation. HOW Awards-In-Craft presentation (Sponsored by Toyota Motor Sales).

2:00-2:30pm

Break. Raffle tickets go on sale!

2:30-3:15pm

Seminar #4: “**Sportsmen's Benevolence Fund and Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry**”. Capt. Jet Quillen, the Public Relations Captain for IDNR Law Enforcement, will discuss these two programs which benefit low income and poor communities in the state, and how hunters can donate legally harvested deer. He will be assisted by Deb Treesh, the Executive Director of Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry.

3:15-3:30pm

Break. Last chance to buy raffle tickets!

3:30pm

Annual HOW Outdoor Writer's Raffle.

4:30pm

Meeting adjourns.

2022 HOW Conference

We would like to thank the following companies and organizations:



Awards-in-Craft Sponsor



Friday Evening BBQ Sponsor



Conference Lunch Co-Sponsor



Conference Lunch Co-Sponsor

as the official sponsors of the
2022 HOW Annual Conference

HOW Raffle Donors - 2022

This list of raffle donors was compiled shortly before the conference. Additional raffle donations may come in after press time, and they will be acknowledged in the next issue.

Al's Goldfish Lure Co.
Alps Brands
Aquateko International
Artrip Float Company
B'n'M Poles
Blackbird Products
Black River Tools
BoatUS
Boomerang Tool Company
Brent Wheat
Bucket Grip
Buff USA
Caldwell
Celox Hemostatic Products
Church Tackle Co.
Cocoons Eyewear
Code Blue Scents
Daisy Outdoor Products
Danco Sports
Dardevle Lures
Ducks Unlimited
Egret Baits
Falcon Guides
Finn Tackle Company
Flying Fisherman
Glacier Glove
Hawke Sport Optics
Henry Repeating Arms
HHA Sports
Hi Mountain Seasonings
Hofmann's Lures
Hornady Manufacturing
Howard Leight
HT Enterprises, Inc.
Josh Lantz Fishing
LensPen

Looter Lure
Mathews Archery
Mack's Lure
MEC Outdoors
Moultrie Trail Cameras
National Wild Turkey Federation
Norsemen Outdoors
Nothead Tackle
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.
Old Salt Angling
Otis Technology
Outdoor Sportsman Group
PahaQue Wilderness
Plano Synergy
Pro-Cure Bait Scents
Pure Fishing
Quaker Boy Game Calls
Rapala VMC
Seaguar Fishing Lines
Shooter's Choice
Smith's Products
Snag Proof Lures
Sporting Classics
Spypoint Trail Cameras
St. Croix Rods
Sturm, Ruger & Co.
Summit Treestands
Swab-Its
Target Communications Outdoor Books
Tick Terminator
TTI-Blakemore
Van Vuuren African Safaris
Vexilar, Inc.
White Flyer Targets
Winchester Ammunition
W.R. Case

Special Auction Announcement

At the 2022 HOW Conference

South African Hunting Safari! Bidding Starts at \$700!

At the upcoming 2022 HOW Conference at Turkey Run State Park, the Hoosier Outdoor Writers will be auctioning-off a fabulous South African Hunting Safari. This trip-of-a-lifetime to the dark continent was generously donated to HOW by **Van Vuuren African Safaris** of South Africa, and includes hunting for a variety of African plains game for two hunters. The trip will include accommodations in luxurious chalets with on-suite bathrooms, a hunting vehicle with trackers and skinners, three meals per day, an open bar, daily laundry, field prep and delivery of trophies to the local taxidermist, the services of a Professional Hunter, and trophy tags for up to two animals.

We offered this trip at the HOW conference in 2019 and Mike Berg was the winner of the auction. Covid postponed his safari until the spring of 2021, but he said he had a wonderful time. The trophy tags included with his safari were for one impala and one warthog for each hunter (additional tags for other animals were purchased separately by him and his hunting partner). See pages 19-20 for info on one of his hunts. Impala photo (right) and kudu (next page) taken by Troy McCormick on his safari.



Troy has also hunted with Van Vuuren African Safaris in the past, and he produced some great videos for his **Footprints.TV** show detailing his hunts and the spectacular scenery. They can be found at the following links:

African Safari (part 1): <https://vimeo.com/293714745>

African Safari (part 2): <https://vimeo.com/294881273>

Troy also produced a 2½ minute safari “highlights” video on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbEE410G2Jg

The trophy tags for this year’s safari (per hunter) will include one **Baboon**, and a choice of either one **Impala** or one **Warthog**. The trip will likely take place in the spring of 2023, which will leave plenty of time for arranging good airfare rates and planning other trip details. Note that the South African hunting season starts April 1st and ends October 31st.

The two animals included in this hunt can really be just the tip of the iceberg for your hunt if you are interested in more or other trophy animals. Kudu, nyala, zebra, wildebeest, blesbuck, eland, gemsbuck and springbuck are just a few of the other plains game animals that are available for hunters. Cobus van Vuuren can provide trophy tag costs for these and other animals for the winner of the auction. Think about whether it is time for your own bucket list trip to South Africa!

Be sure to check out the next page and the **Van Vuuren African Safaris** website for costs and additional details and other trip information (www.vvasafaris.com).





VAN VUUREN

— AFRICAN SAFARIS —

www.vvasafaris.com

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cobus@vvasafaris.com, cobusjvv@mweb.co.za

Post Net Suite #114, Private Bag X6625, Thabazimbi, 0380, Limpopo, South Africa
American Representative; Mr. Justin Tinsley, mobile 502-680-1022, email: jtinsley2172@yahoo.com.

Auction/ Donation Hunt Certificate

Date: Jan 21, 2022

Hunting Outfitter (Permit nr. ZA/LP/95623): Cobus van Vuuren

Professional Hunter (Permit no. ZA/LP/95622): Cobus van Vuuren

Van Vuuren African Safaris is pleased to hereby donate the following hunt to **Hoosier Outdoor Writers** group under management of Mr. Tom Berg to be used at his discretion. The hunt will consist of the following:

Accommodation

- **5 Hunting days** accommodation for two (2) hunters or one hunter, one observer.

Trophy animals (two animals included per hunter)

The following animals are included in the package:

- A choice of either one **Impala** (seen at right) or one **Warthog** per hunter.
- One **Baboon** per hunter.

The hunt is fully upgradeable and extra days, hunters and animals can be added as per price list of the year the hunt takes place. The hunt will be valid for the **2022/2023** seasons only. Our hunting season starts April 1st and ends October 31st. The hunting days included are enough to cover for the animals donated (rifle hunting).

For bow hunting, we require a minimum of 8 hunting days.

The hunt is valued at \$4,700. This is a 60% donation towards the **Hoosier Outdoor Writers** group. The other 40% will go to Van Vuuren African Safaris to cover basic costs.

Central Kentucky Taxidermy (www.centrankytaxidermy.com) offers free USDA clearance on trophy shipments sent to their shop. This offer does not include broker or dip and ship fees. Contact Mr. Justin Tinsley (see above).

Included in package:

- Luxurious chalets with on-suite bathrooms
- Full catering and open bar
- Daily laundry
- Services of Professional Hunter (two on one)
- Hunting vehicle, trackers & skimmers
- Field prep and delivery of trophies to taxidermist

Excluded from Package:

- Airfare
- Accommodation before and after hunt
- Taxidermy costs and shipping
- **\$400** Pickup and return from and to JHB international airport, per

hunter/observer, also includes first and last

night's accommodation, meals and beverages on day of arrival/departure which are **NON HUNTING DAYS.**

- Gratitude tips for staff
- Anything else not mentioned



The "Terms and conditions" of **Van Vuuren African Safaris** apply and is available on our website: www.vvasafaris.com.

No credit will be given on animals not harvested, days not used and/or trophy fees that were included in this auction/donation hunt. No animals or day fees as described above can be exchanged for credit or other animals not included in this auction/donation hunt. For any further information, please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,

Cobus van Vuuren

Auction for a One-Day Jet Boat Guided Fishing Trip
For Two for Smallmouth Bass on the St. Joseph River

Excellent Smallmouth Bass Fishing! Bidding Starts at \$100



Bidding will start at \$100. High bidder will enjoy a memorable day of fishing on the St. Joseph River with HOW member Josh Lantz, at a time to be arranged this summer.

Email Josh at: josh.lantz@att.net to schedule & arrange details.

Fishing license, transportation & lodging not included.

On the Hunt for Kudu

by Tom Berg



It was late-morning, and my brother Mike, his son Steve, and professional hunter Cobus van Vuuren were all sitting in one of Cobus' hunting blinds in the beautiful Limpopo Province in South Africa. Even though it was May and springtime in the USA, it was autumn in South Africa, and winter was approaching. Winter temperatures in South Africa are a little different than here in Indiana, though, and that morning it was a pleasant 68 degrees. Even better than that – there were hardly any annoying insects flying around!

The trio of hunters sat in the blind and waited for a kudu to come into view. What is a kudu? A kudu is a large spiral-horned antelope which is common in Africa. The greater kudu inhabits southern Africa, while the smaller lesser kudu lives in northeastern and eastern Africa. Greater kudu are very tall (five feet tall at the shoulder) and can weigh as much as 650 pounds. The only antelope larger than a kudu is the massive eland. Mike was hunting the greater kudu.

Surprisingly, Mike said he wasn't planning to shoot a kudu when he was preparing for his safari earlier in the year. Originally, he had intended to hunt impala, waterbuck, warthog and possibly zebra. He and Steve wanted to hunt different animals and not duplicate any trophies between them. Steve decided he wanted a zebra, so Mike crossed it off his list. Hmm. What could he replace it with?

On their first night at Cobus' lodge, Mike and Steve saw a large kudu bull that made an impact on him. Cobus has an outdoor fire pit with a feeding trough nearby where animals periodically come in to feed. That evening a big male kudu came in and provided them with a great view. Mike was amazed at how majestic the kudu looked, so he told Cobus he would be interested in hunting a kudu later in the week.

Back to the hunt: Mike sat in the hunting blind, wondering how long it might take for some animals to appear. It didn't take long! After only about 10 minutes, several female kudu started to come in from the bush. A blue wildebeest bull also came into view and started feeding.

Just then, a big bull kudu appeared. Unfortunately, he only had one horn! Mike and Steve wondered how he had lost that one horn, but they didn't have much time to ponder it. This kudu looked nervous, and he kept looking away into the brush. After only a couple of minutes he started walking away. He kept looking back as he moved away, like there was some sort of danger approaching. The females and the wildebeest ignored him.

They soon saw why the one-horned kudu acted nervous. Another big kudu bull suddenly appeared and started to approach. This was a big, magnificent animal with large spiral horns. The other kudu disappeared, but the females completely ignored the newcomer. The wildebeest seemed to be oblivious to it, too.

(continued next page)

This second kudu was probably only about 40 yards away and was slowly walking straight towards the blind. Mike decided this was the kudu he wanted, so he got ready to shoot. He was waiting for the animal to turn broadside, but Cobus whispered to go ahead and take him – but aim directly at the middle of his chest.

Mike put the crosshairs on his chest and squeezed the trigger. The gun went off and the kudu jumped when the bullet hit him. Mike could see that it was a mortal shot. The kudu took off, and the other animals that were feeding nearby also scattered at the sound of the shot. The kudu only ran 25 or 30 feet, though, before collapsing at the edge of the brush. There were high fives all around! Mike was very happy.

The trio only waited a couple of minutes because they knew the animal was dead already. Cobus approached it and touched it to make sure it had expired, and then he motioned for Mike to check out his trophy. It was a really large animal!

Mike was understandably excited. In fact, it took several minutes for his heart to stop racing! He had dreamed of this moment, and now it was a reality. This kudu was a real trophy, too. The huge black horns spiraled up majestically and were somewhat polished towards the tips from rubbing on trees and bushes. The bold, bright white face stripe complemented the thin white stripes on the Kudu's sides. It was a very handsome animal.

Cobus left to get the truck so they could haul the animal out for skinning. Cobus' local skinners would make short work of prepping the hide and head/horns for the taxidermist, and they would save the meat for the kitchen. Nothing would go to waste. Kudu steaks make excellent table fare, too!

When Cobus returned with the truck, Mike and Steve were relieved to see that the truck was equipped with a heavy-duty winch for lifting the large carcass. Kudu bulls typically weigh anywhere from 450-600 pounds, so the winch was a real lifesaver.



Once the kudu was on the truck, Mike smiled as he recalled the exciting events of the last hour and replayed them again in his mind. The sight of the kudu bull as it approached, with the late-morning sunlight glinting off its polished horns was etched in his memory. It was a fantastic hunt he will never forget!

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

For immediate release: March 10, 2022

Thousands of Student-Archers to Compete at Indiana NASP® State Tournament

The Indiana National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP®) State Tournament will be held this Saturday, March 12, at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis.



This marks the 16th annual tournament held by the program since its inception in January 2005. The Elements Blue Ribbon and Champions pavilions at the fairgrounds will host the NASP® Bullseye and NASP®/IBO 3D tournaments.

Schools across the state that have NASP® as a part of their curriculum were eligible to compete in qualifiers that were held from Jan. 1 through Feb. 6. Nearly 2,300 students qualified and were invited to compete in the NASP® Bullseye Tournament. The NASP®/IBO 3D Tournament will host more than 645 students.

At this year's Indiana NASP® State Tournament, more than \$40,000 in continuing education and military scholarships to over 80 competing graduating high school archers will be awarded. These scholarship funds were raised from the tournament sponsors and a matching grant from National NASP®.

Indiana NASP® is provided for schools across the state through the DNR Division of Law Enforcement. The program started in the state in 2002 with 10 pilot schools and now has more than 600 schools trained to deliver the program to Indiana students. More than 70,000 Indiana students have benefitted.

The national organization's slogan is: NASP® "Changes Lives ... One Arrow at a Time".

Media Contact: Tim Beck, Indiana Hunter Education, Indiana NASP® Coordinator, phone: 317-694-7531.



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

For immediate release: February 12, 2022

Three Arrested After Poaching Incident in Newton County

Indiana Conservation Officers have arrested three Chicago men on multiple wildlife violations.

The arrests stem from an investigation that originated on the evening of Feb. 15, when conservation officers were contacted after witnesses reported shots coming from a vehicle illuminating a rural area with a spotlight.

Shortly after the call, a Newton County Sheriff's deputy observed a vehicle matching the suspected vehicle commit a traffic violation and conducted a traffic stop. While on the stop, the deputy observed blood on the vehicle's license plate and a freshly killed whitetail deer in the bed of the truck.

Conservation officers arrived on scene, and the investigation determined the three occupants, Perfecto Torres Fuentes, 35; Elvis Gandara, 43; and Julian Jasso, 33; were involved in the illegal taking of the deer. All three were arrested and booked into the Newton County Jail on multiple misdemeanor wildlife violations.

A shotgun, spotlight, the involved vehicle, and additional items were seized as evidence. All suspects are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

Conservation Officers in both Indiana and Illinois have recently received multiple complaints of this type of activity near the Indiana-Illinois state line. If you see or suspect wildlife violations, call DNR Law Enforcement Central Dispatch at 812-837-9536 or 1-800-TIP-IDNR.

Media contact: ICO Tyler Brock, DNR Law Enforcement, phone: 260-499-0948, email: tbrock@dnr.IN.gov. Photo below shows several deer on the nearby Kankakee Sands property.



The Indiana Dunes Birding Festival: May 12-15

The Indiana Dunes Birding Festival is an annual event hosted by the [Indiana Audubon Society](#) that showcases the abundance of migratory birds in the Indiana Dunes.

Birding in the Indiana Dunes is the best the state has to offer. With its rich biodiversity, varying habitats and miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, the Indiana Dunes is a hotspot for migrant birds. The Indiana Dunes Birding Festival celebrates the dunes area's rich biodiversity and bird watching opportunities with the goal of positively impacting visitors and local residents through environmental education, conservation initiatives, and support of the local economy.

The [2022 Indiana Dunes Birding Festival](#) is being planned as an in-person festival this year.

Last year, birders logged over 200 species at the 2021 Indiana Dunes Birding Festival. The most ever! Check out the full list of species seen during the 4 days on the link below (not including pre and post festival trips). Last year's grand total was 211 species!
<https://indunesbirdingfestival.com/pages/2021-festival-bird-totals>



2022 Festival Keynote Speaker: David Lindo, "The Urban Birder"
Saturday, May 14: 5:30pm – 8:30pm
Sand Creek Country Club
Chesterton, IN

Join us for an evening with David Lindo, the Urban Birder. David has gained the reputation of being a playfully entertaining, though very professional, passionate and informative speaker. David is broadcaster, writer, speaker, tour leader, and educator with a mission to engage city folk around the world with the environment through the medium of birds. He is author of *The Urban Birder*, *Tales from Concrete Jungles*, and more.

Take part in a great evening looking at David's worldwide travels, his take on birding, and prepare to be delighted and inspired to look for nature and birdlife in every corner of our world.

Other Speakers:

Festival Headliner: Elizabeth Hargrave
Wingspan: How a Board Game Took the Birding World by Storm
Thursday, May 12: 11:30 – 12:30pm / Dunes Visitor Center

Festival Headliner: Dan Gardoqui
Talking with Birds: From Listing to Listening
Friday, May 13: 11:30 – 12:30pm / Dunes Visitor Center

Festival Headliner: Diego Calderon
Birding with FARC: How Birds Connect People
Saturday, May 14: 11:30 – 12:30pm / Dunes Visitor Center

Festival Headliner: Dr. Ken Brock
Lake Michigan's Fall Funnel Affect and What You're Missing Out on
Sunday May 15: 11:30 – 12:30pm / Dunes Visitor Center





Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

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

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

Report from Jarrett Manek:

HOW member Jarrett Manek is the naturalist for O'Bannon Woods State Park in southern Indiana, so he gets plenty of opportunities to see wildlife in and around the park. Birds are no exception. "We have a lot of **Eastern Screech Owls** (*Megascops asio*) around here," said Manek. "Just the other day I observed three screech owls in one day. Screech owls are 'Indiana's Tiny Owl'. Often referred to as a baby owl, the eastern screech owl has a character that is anything but tiny. With territories getting established during breeding season, now is a great time to see these little owls perched in tree cavities or nesting boxes."

"I'm sure they enjoy the great weather at this time of year, secretly watching the woods around them even in the daylight. Even though they are considered nocturnal, they still have to go somewhere during the day. Some folks never get to see one, although sometimes they hear one but don't know what they are actually hearing. Screech owls can make a variety of sounds, from a trilling whistle to a soft whinny, and they can also make the scream that gave them their name."

"If you know what to look for, maybe you can get a glimpse of one. They come in two different colors, a gray phase and red phase (also called rufous) coloration. As any bird of prey can, they blend into their surroundings very well. Just like our hair color, one can see both color phases in the same nest. Smallish tree cavities are where you want to look. However, you can find them in artificial wooden nest boxes as well. Squirrel and wood duck box



nesting structures are another great place to see them looking back at you, especially in the winter and early spring."

Eastern screech owls are beautiful little raptors. The red phase, or rufous screech owl (**above**) is often easier to see against gray tree bark than the more common gray phase individuals (**left**). Both are cool.

"If you put up a nesting box in one of your trees, it may not take very long at all for one to take it over. I have seen a pair of screech owls kick out a squirrel and hatch five babies out of the box in the middle of a small neighborhood. You might be surprised where you may see or hear one."



Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

Report from Mike Lunsford:

HOW Board Member Mike Lunsford captured this photo of a female **Sharp-Shinned Hawk** (*Accipiter striatus*) perched atop an old cedar trellis near his Parke County home in mid-January. “Sharp-shinned hawks are accipiters, marked by having long tails and shorter rounded wings that enable them to catch prey--usually other birds--in tight forested areas and in mid-flight,” said Lunsford.



“Song birds make up about 90 percent of a sharp-shinned hawk’s diet, which is one reason they are frequent visitors to bird-feeding stations.” Sharp-shinned hawks only breed in dense stands of trees, so their fate is, as one source says, ‘intertwined with that of the wooded wilderness.’

Lunsford said he had just returned home from two hours of walking his woods in the cold and looking for birds with little success, when he saw this hawk right in his own yard. “I have seen a lot of hawks this year, but this one was the most exciting,” he stated.

Sharp-shinned hawks look very similar to Cooper’s hawks, so unless you are an expert it is pretty difficult to tell them apart. “Usually, Cooper’s hawks are larger birds and have broader shoulders and wider heads,” explained Lunsford. “The Cooper’s hawk is a more robust bird. The sharp-shinned hawk is usually a thinner and smaller bird, too, although mature females can be pretty big! Besides a straighter bottom edge to their tail feathers, sharp-shinned hawks also tend to have their gray/brown back feathers wrap around to their shoulders more.”

Another report from Jarrett Manek:

As winter slowly started to lose its grip in southern Indiana this past February, HOW member Jarrett Manek was lucky enough to spot a solitary **American Woodcock** (*Scolopax minor*) searching for food among the fallen leaves. Fortunately, Manek had a camera nearby.

“Timberdoodle, elf bird, whistle pecker and bog sucker are just a few names associated with one of our lesser-known migratory gamebirds,” Manek said. “The American woodcock is a very unusual bird with great camouflage. They are often sought after by upland bird hunters during the fall hunting season. Sometimes a dog’s nose doesn’t like smelling these funny little flyers, let alone retrieve one. Plus, the fact that they eat worms provides an unappealing thought of what they might taste like. However, if you like the earthy taste of liver, you may enjoy a meal of timberdoodle. The bag limit of three would give you a skillet worth fixing.”



“Usually around the middle/end of February is when we start to see them migrating back into southern Indiana, performing their peeps and high flying timberdoodle sky dance,” he continued. “Dusk is the perfect time to witness the start of their mating ritual. Sometimes you can find them hanging out around a wet ditch during the day sucking up worms and nightcrawlers with their long beaks. They are a real treat to watch and even more special to get some close-up photographs if you can spot one before they fly off.”

HOW Member News

Rick Bramwell Finds Success While Icefishing

HOW Past President Rick Bramwell enjoys all types of fishing, including icefishing. Even though winter appears to be behind us and spring is just around the corner, Bramwell had an interesting icefishing session in mid-February. Here's what he said about that trip:

"This ice season for my friend Bob May and I has been up and down," commented Bramwell. "On the trips where we caught good numbers of fish, there was no size. Conversely, the big ones were hard to come by. Nonetheless, we each caught one 11-inch bluegill through the ice this year. Last Monday, however, within minutes of packing it in, my season took a huge upturn."

"We were fishing a large pond called Iron Mike's. In these waters swim big bluegill, redear sunfish, crappie, and bass. The trouble is, they usually won't bite. The fish seem to suspend at various depths well off the bottom and move around a lot."

"On Monday afternoon, Bob and I were being battered by a cold north wind. We drilled our holes so our backs would be to the wind. His attire and mine probably hasn't changed in over 20-years. We dress layered and we know how to stay warm."

"I was encouraged early by catching a 12-inch crappie, but then nothing. After a while Bob walked over and said, 'I've had about enough of this.' I suggested we give it 10 more minutes."

"As time was expiring, I pulled one line from the water and jigged the other pole one last time. I had a good bite but missed it. When I checked, both teardrop jigs had been robbed of bait. I added two wax worms to each hook and fed the line back down the hole. I yelled that I had had a bite and needed another 10-minutes."

"I jigged my fresh offering and my spring bobber began to twitch. When it went down, I set the hook. I quickly realized this was a big fish. I yelled to Bob that I had something huge on the end of my line. He came in a hurry and began doing a play-by-play with his cell phone on video. Fortunately, the night before, I removed my old two-pound test and re-spoiled with fresh four-pound test line. I like to use the lighter line but the bait shop was sold out. Lucky me."

"The big something was in control. On its first run, I pointed the rod tip towards the hole. Fortunately, the reel was not tightened down all the way and slipped. I loosened it even more. Every time the surging fish took line, the little plastic reel knob rotated in a blur. I dared not grab it. My color-man was directing that I get the fish to the hole, but it was a time to be patient. Force this fish and it is gone."

"Finally, the fish gave up its valiant effort to escape and rolled to where we could see its white belly. Bob used both hands to force a big channel catfish through the five-inch ice hole."

"The small #8 ice jig was hooked in the edge of the mouth of this beautiful fish. As soon as Bob took photos, I slid this formidable foe back through the ice hole and we watched it swim away. As far as my ice fishing season goes, I hit a three-pointer right at the buzzer."



More Metal Detecting for Troy McCormick

HOW Past President Troy McCormick has really been enjoying exploring and metal detecting old homesteads and farms in southern Indiana lately. He has found some pretty cool things, too, from 200-year old coins to a gold ring lost by one of the landowners. In early March he did some more exploring. Here is his report:

“While metal detecting a 1902 farmhouse this past weekend,” said McCormick, “I dug up a pair of heavy binoculars with some of the glass lenses still intact. I was hoping the binoculars were for military use, but after researching the make and model number which were still visible on them, I discovered they were made by the Conestoga Corporation between 1910-1930. They were made for the Boy Scouts of America.”

“While widening the hole looking for the other large lens, I found a vintage Coke bottle at the same 9-inch depth. Among my other finds were two wheat pennies, some modern coins and a marble. It was a fun day detecting!”



Membership Changes and Member Contact Info

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

Trent Marsh: 23 N 700 W, Larwill, IN 46764, phone: 260-417-0158,
Email: intagsoupllc@gmail.com.

The following HOW members have updated contact information:

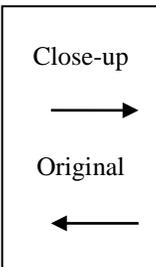
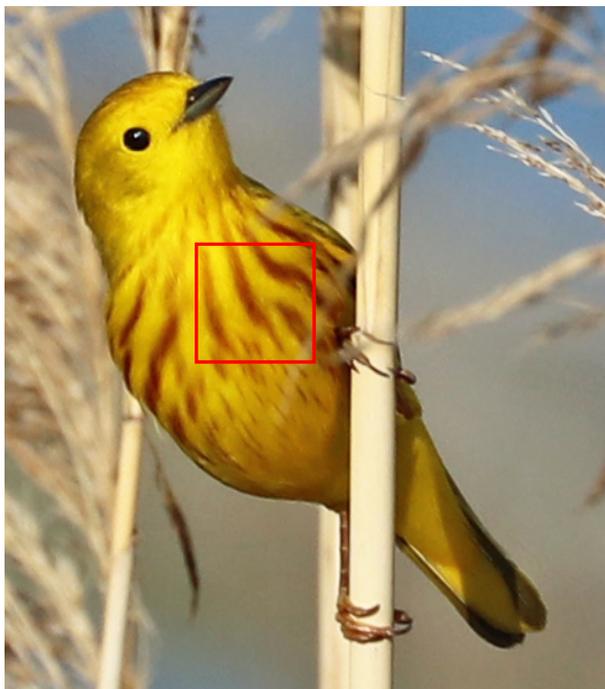
Scott Cummings: New address: 2324 Allen St., Fort Wayne, IN 46818.
Bob Sawtelle: New address: 2350 Harrison Spring Rd. NW, Corydon, IN 47112,
New email: blueriverbob1@gmail.com.
Scott Weaver: New address: 4545 Norwaldo Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46205.

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 Howard Leight Shooting Sports

Yellow Warblers Do Not Allow Nest Intruders



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was a little more difficult than usual, since it was correctly identified by only six (6) HOW members. Mike Schoonveld, Troy McCormick, Marilyn Culler, Bill Keaton, Rich Creason and Phil Seng were all able to identify it. When we drew a name at random for the Caldwell Portable Range Kit, Mike Schoonveld was the lucky winner. Congratulations, Mike! We will be sure to send the prize directly to you.

As you can see in the photo (at left), the mystery creature for this issue was a Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*). As the name implies, these brightly colored warblers are adorned with brilliant yellow feathers, and the males can be distinguished by the reddish-chestnut colored streaks on their breast. Females are a little duller and lack the breast streaking. Their dark beak and coal-black eyes are easily noticed against their plain yellow head.

An interesting fact about yellow warblers is that they don't tolerate it when a brown-headed cowbird lays an egg in their nest. Unlike other birds which raise the cowbird hatchling as its own, yellow warblers abandon the nest even if the mother warbler has already laid her own eggs in it. She then builds a new nest right on top of the old one and lays a new clutch of eggs. Cowbirds rarely return to check on their eggs or hatchlings, so the new warbler nest stays cowbird-free!

For this issue, our friends at **Howard Leight** have donated a very nice prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue's “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be a set of Howard Leight Impact Sport electronic earmuffs, worth more than \$60. See below for more info.



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

Tom Berg has posed another Nature Photo mystery. The photo shown at right is part of a close-up of a creature that can be found throughout the state of Indiana, although it is more common in some areas than others. Some people even see it in their own back yard. Does it look familiar? Have you ever seen this color pattern?



This creature may be easy for some people to identify, and harder for others. But we'll see. Do you know of any creatures that look like this? As usual, you will have to identify the exact species. If you think it's a species of cricket, for example, go ahead and guess “Field Cricket” (of course, it's not a cricket). If you think you know the answer, send an email to me at thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you're right, you will be entered in this issue's prize drawing!

As mentioned above, **Howard Leight Shooting Sports** will donate a set of Impact Sport electronic earmuffs (Color pattern: 2nd Amendment) for the HOW member who guesses correctly for this issue's “What Is It?” nature question. Visit www.howardleight.com to see all of their ear protection products. If multiple people guess correctly, we'll draw a winner at random from the correct entries. All nature photos on this page were taken by Tom Berg.

HOW Supporting Member News

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

Summit® Treestands Releases New Climber for 2022: Meet the Viper® Level Pro SD

Summit has elevated the treestand game once again. Available now, the revolutionary new Viper® Level Pro SD climber combines the comfort and security hunters know and love from Summit with another step up in adjustability. Thanks to its patent-pending EasyLevel™ dial system, hunters no longer have to worry about climbing all the way down to adjust the angle of their platforms. Simply use the dials to keep the platforms level – all while remaining attached to the tree.

Like its Viper® Pro SD predecessor, the Viper® Level Pro SD comes equipped with industry-leading features, including the Quick Draw™ PRO cable retention system, FasTrack™ accessory system, wraparound armpad, comfortable foam suspended seat, Dead Metal® sound-deadening technology, and more.

Specifications:

- Weight: 26 lbs
- Weight Limit: 300 lbs maximum
- Seat Frame Size: 27" W x 37.5" D
- Platform Frame Size: 25" W x 36" D
- Seat Area: (Bottom) 18" W X 12" L / (BACK) 12" W X 20" L
- Tree Diameter Range: 8" - 20"



ABOUT SUMMIT TREESTANDS

Summit is a leading manufacturer of premium-quality, high-performance treestands, safety harnesses, and treestand accessories. Summit Treestands are carefully engineered to be the most silent, secure, comfortable, and safest treestands available. From versatile and lightweight climbing stands to quality and comfortable fall arrest harnesses, all of our hunting gear is built to last. All Summit stands are designed and engineered to meet or exceed standards set by the Treestand Manufacturers Association, and all Summit aluminum climbing stands come with a 5-year limited warranty. When Summit says, "Hunting Elevated," it represents a tireless commitment to quality that's above the rest! Visit summitstands.com to learn more.

The Viper® Level Pro SD is available in Mossy Oak Elements Terra® Gila™ and Realtree Timber®.

Media Contact: Please contact Hannah Kinderknecht at Pradco Outdoor Brands for more info. She can be reached by phone at: 205-995-4518 or via email: hkinderknecht@pradcooutdoorbrands.com.

HOW Supporting Member News

Stack the Decks: Expanded St. Croix BassX Series Gets Stronger and Lighter for 2022

BassX Series offers bass anglers more technology, new components, fresh aesthetics, and all-new choices while remaining an exceptional value.

St. Croix's popular BassX Series sets the standard for affordable high-performance in handcrafted bass rods. Since its debut five years ago, the series has found its way into the hands of countless passionate bass enthusiasts who appreciate its ability to deliver the upper hand in any angling situation, at a price that allows them to stack their decks with the Best Rods on Earth®.

Driven to continually improve and heighten the angling experience, St. Croix resolved to take what it has learned from recent product introductions - Legend Xtreme, Victory, and others - and put that intel to work in improving its angler-favorite BassX Series. The result is a new lineup of BassX rods for 2022 that are stronger, lighter, and more comfortable, with sizzling new aesthetics and more choices for new presentations than ever before, while retaining and compounding their exceptional value in the \$120 to \$150 retail-price range.

Stronger, Lighter, Better

The BassX transformation begins in the blank itself. Crafted from a brand-new formulation of premium SCII carbon that increases flexural strength while reducing weight, new BassX is then made even stronger with the addition of St. Croix's Fortified Resin System (FRS) technology.

"Fiber wash is something that can happen when carbon fibers come out of alignment when a rod blank is cured," says St. Croix Product Manager, Ryan Teach. "This can create weak spots in the blank." St. Croix combats fiber wash with FRS, which combines a fortified super resin with computer-operated curing ovens that provide improved temperature and time management through all stages of the critical curing cycle. "FRS prevents micro-buckling by keeping the carbon fibers in proper alignment. Blanks manufactured using this advanced manufacturing protocol test significantly stronger than those built with standard resins and curing methods," Teach adds. "Our use of FRS in the new BassX Series in combination with our new, lighter and stronger SCII material represents a quantum leap forward with respect to performance. For the BassX angler, it ultimately means they're buying a rod that is lighter than ever with all-new levels of strength and durability. Our engineering team has proven and validated these performance enhancements in testing."

Those critical attributes are further enhanced in new BassX models by an all-new hybrid guide train, which also reduces weight and noise while improving performance with braided line. "The hybrid guide platform on new BassX models combines SeaGuide® Aluminum Oxide guides with SeaGuide® Atlas Performance stainless steel guides," says Teach. "The new stainless guides are incredibly light and durable, largely because there are no troublesome inserts. They have a slim profile that compliments the new skeleton-style reel seats with a modern and stylistic appearance; weight is also reduced and sensitivity is improved." Teach says anglers fishing braid with a mono or fluoro leader will also notice less disruption, which is measured by the noise and resistance the angler perceives when casting a lure. "We've optimized the hybrid guide train on new BassX models to better handle braided line and gave them the ability to pass a large diameter leader-line knot through the guide train with limited disruption."

Lightweight sensitivity and balance are the hallmarks of any bass rod - at least they should be. "I've always been a huge BassX fan and I really like what St. Croix has done to make these rods even better," says bass-fishing *wunderkid* and St. Croix pro, Trey McKinney. "They feel even lighter and crisper," the 2018 Bassmaster and FLW Junior National Champion says. "I like the way the new skeleton-style reel seat with carbon fiber insert (on select models) allows me to keep in direct contact with

(continued on next page)



BEST RODS ON EARTH™

HOW Supporting Member News

(continued from previous page)

the blank, and the way St. Croix listened to anglers in developing the new handle configurations in all the different models. The reel seat is integral with the handle, and there's no extra material in places it isn't needed," McKinney adds. "This really increases each rod's versatility and results in improved balance in the hand. Normally, when you make a rod stronger you also make it heavier or at least add tip weight, but St. Croix found a way to make these new BassX rods even more durable while shedding weight and improving balance and ergonomics. That's impressive, but not surprising to anyone who knows anything about St. Croix and the people who work there."

New Looks

New BassX rods for 2022 come wrapped in an all-new aesthetic that accentuates their heightened performance. "A lot of bass anglers - especially younger ones - want that performance they know they'll get from a handcrafted St. Croix rod, and they want to be able to afford several rods that support all the techniques they use out there on the water, but they want them to look right, too," offers McKinney. "For someone like me, I loved the way BassX rods looked before, but I can't argue with what St. Croix has done with this new Raw Carbon finish. You can really see and appreciate how each of these strong and lightweight performers is built. I'd describe it as a minimalistic approach and it just looks right with the new handle designs, reel seats, guides and contrasting hot accent colors. Bass anglers are going to love them, and the fact that these high-performance rods are as affordable as they are, they'll have the ability to pick up two, three, four, even five of these incredible new BassX rods for the cost of what they'd pay for someone else's 'latest and greatest'. That's a really big deal for most anglers I know."

More Choices for More Bass Techniques

The redesigned BassX Series expands from 14 to 16 models for 2022, offering passionate bass anglers the ability to fish anything from a 1/8-ounce dropshot to an 8-ounce swimbait with handcrafted St. Croix performance, which comes backed by a five-year warranty.

New St. Croix BassX Features:

- All-new, premium-quality SCII carbon material with FRS for unparalleled strength and durability
- Hybrid guide platform featuring SeaGuide® Aluminum Oxide guides with black frames and SeaGuide® Atlas Performance stainless (SS304) guides with Sea Guide® black PVD coated tip top
- SeaGuide® XCMS reel seat with black hood on non-swimbait casting models
- SeaGuide® TCS reel seat with black hood on swimbait-specific casting models
- SeaGuide® NPS reel seat with black hood on spinning models
- Split-grip premium-grade cork handle on spinning and non-swimbait casting models
- Full-grip premium-grade EVA handle on swimbait casting models
- Split-grip premium-grade cork foregrip on spinning models
- Model-specific SeaGuide® NHOOK, THOOK, or Kigan Custom hook keepers
- Two coats of Flex-Coat with slow cure finish.
- 5-year warranty backed by St. Croix Superstar Service
- Designed in Park Falls, U.S.A. and handcrafted in Fresnillo, Mexico
- Retail price \$120 to \$150



New BassX Series rods are available now at St. Croix dealers worldwide and online at stcroixrods.com.

Media Contact: Please contact Josh Lantz at Traditions Media for more information on this or other St. Croix products (phone: 219-728-8996, email: josh@traditionsmedia.com).

HOW's Supporting Member Websites

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

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

Hoosier Outdoor Writers

Application For New Membership

(Check Desired Classification below)

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

Personal Information:

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

Professional Information:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Signature: _____

Sponsor: _____

Who We Are

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

What We Do

These are the purposes of HOW:

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

What We Stand For

These are what we strive to accomplish:

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

Membership Requirements

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

1. Active

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



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

2. Associate

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

3. Supporting

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

4. Active Student

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

5. Associate Student

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

Calendar of Events

HOW 2022 Annual Conference:

(www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org)

Turkey Run State Park
Parke County, IN

April 1-3, 2022

(Annual meeting on April 2)

OWAA 2022 Annual Conference:

(www.owaa.org)

Casper, WY

May 21-23, 2022

NRA 2022 Annual Meeting and Exhibits:

(www.nraam.org)

Houston, TX

May 27-29, 2022

SEOPA 2022 Annual Conference:

(www.seopa.org)

Daniels, WV

June 1-4, 2022

POMA 2022 Business Conference:

(www.professionalooutdoormedia.org)

Kalispell, MT

June 14-16, 2022

ICAST Show 2022:

(www.ICASTfishing.org)

Orlando, FL

July 19-22, 2022

AGLOW 2022 Annual Conference:

(www.aglowinfo.org)

Chateau on the Lake Resort
Branson, MO

September 19-22, 2022

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*.