

The Blade

November – December 2008

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



2008 Awards-In-Craft winner "*Blackbirds and Harvest Moon*" by HOW Member John Maxwell



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 professionals who are keenly interested in the wise use of natural resources in the Hoosier State.

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All submissions and correspondence in regards to the newsletter should be directed to: Tom Berg, 2142 Nondorf St., Dyer, IN 46311, or by e-mail to: tom.berg@gossinternational.com
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President's Message

by Brent Wheat



Finally, fortunately, the elections are over. Now, for better or worse, we must live with our choices.

I'm sure that I am not the only person who is tired of incessant television advertising that features deep-voiced announcers solemnly intoning carefully crafted copy such as:

"Barak Obama...Do we really need change from a man who has never denied boiling live baby ducks for fun??"

-- OR --

"John McCain...are we sure he wasn't the mysterious shooter on the grassy knoll?"

Yeah, I'm thankful the elections are over. However, I'm not necessarily thankful for our new President-elect, Barack Obama.

Now, before a significant portion of the HOW Membership starts writing angry, drool-soaked complaint emails to Yours Truly, let me explain that this pronouncement is not based on Republican/Democrat or Liberal/Conservative ideologies. It is based on the simple fact is that our incoming president is not a friend to gun owners.

I hope there is no one in our membership who would argue that point.

By any rational examination of past voting records, speeches and official position statements, Mr. Obama's support of private gun ownership is lukewarm at best. Combined with a Democrat majority in congress led by outspoken anti-gun advocates, the current political climate quite likely represents our collective worse nightmare from a firearm owners standpoint.

Obviously this is a situation of great interest to the majority of HOW members.

As I have written in one of my recent newspaper columns, this election is a call to arms (pun semi-intended) for gun owners. If, five years from now, we find ourselves in a situation where only federally-registered single-shot shotguns are allowed for the annual HOW sporting clays outing, the membership of our group will share a portion of the blame.

Say it with me: "We....*WE*....are responsible for defending the Second Amendment."

Now is the time for every writer, photographer, producer, editor and publisher to become a firearms activist. As a group, we have the bully pulpit at our disposal; have you ever stopped to imagine how many people our membership collectively reaches on a daily basis? We are the guardians at the gate and now is the time to utilize that power in order to preserve our hunting and shooting heritage.

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Now is the time for each of us to learn about the issues, understand the political implications and then use our power to rally sportsmen and women into action.

We also need to form a strong, broad coalition in support of the Second Amendment. Those familiar with the Jim Zumbo situation two years ago understand the pitfalls of dividing the shooting community into hunters and target shooters. We need to embrace each other even if we don't understand why someone would spend countless hours stalking deer or perfecting a 1000-yard shot with a military-style weapon. We all use guns and it is important that we stand shoulder-to-shoulder in the upcoming fight.

I truly believe we will be in the fight of our lifetime to defend guns. Not only could we lose a significant portion of our ability to enjoy the shooting sports, we will have failed our future generations. How can we replace the experience of sharing a duck blind on a frosty morning or deer hunting with our kids, grandkids and those hunters yet unborn?

There is so much at stake- we cannot shirk our responsibilities.

That is my rallying cry for the moment. I hope you will ponder this over and make a decision to become personally involved. Meanwhile, I'm going to go deer hunting.

While I still can.

- Brent Wheat

We wish all HOW
members a very
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

Changed E-Mail Addresses:

Don Bickel - edgeoftheprairie@sbcglobal.net

Michael Ellis - me_naturein@yahoo.com

Alan Garbers - agarb84@bpl.coop

Memorial to Deceased HOW Members

Those Who Have Gone Before Us

Jack Alkire – President of HOW 1979
Bill Beeman – Executive Director
Ed Blann
Charlie Brown
Jim “Moose” Carden – President 1982/83
Gary Carden
George Carey
John Case
Bill Church – President of HOW 1972
Jack “Big Jake” Cooper
Mark Cottingham
Dick Forbes
Fred Heckman
Mike Lyle – President of HOW 1981
Ralph “Cork” McHargue – President 1976
Bob Nesbit
Jack Parry
Harry Renfro
George Seketa
Al Spiers
Butch Tackett
Robert “Doc” Stunkard
Joe West

Presidents of HOW

Bill Scifres	1969
Bill Scifres	1970
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
Martin (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

Supporting Members' Websites

3M Scientific Anglers - www.scientificanglers.com
Alpen Optics - www.alpenoutdoor.com
B&M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Bass Pro Shops - www.basspro.com
Birchwood Casey - www.birchwoodcasey.com
Blackpowder Products, Inc. - www.bpiguns.com
Buck Knives - www.buckknives.com
Bundy Ducks - www.bundyducks.com
Cabela's, Inc. - www.cabelas.com
Clam Corporation - www.clamcorp.com
Coleman Company - www.coleman.com
Creative Outdoor Products - www.hunterdan.com
Crimson Trace - www.crimsontrace.com
Danner Boot Company - www.danner.com
DeLorme, Inc. - www.delorme.com
Environ-Metal, Inc. - www.hevishot.com
Flatrock Hunting Preserve - www.flatrockhunting.com
G.Loomis - www.gloomis.com
Gaston's White River Resort - www.gastons.com
Godfrey Marine - www.godfreymarine.com
Great American Tool Co. - www.greatamericantool.com
Hart Productions - www.hartproductions.com
Horton Mfg Company - www.crossbow.com
Hunter's Specialties - www.hunterspec.com
Indiana Conservation Afield - www.ico.com/Conservation-Afield/order-form.html
Indiana Outdoor News - www.raghorn.com
Kwikee Kwiver Company - www.kwikeekwiver.com
L&S Bait Co. - www.mirrolure.com
Lacrosse - www.lacrossefootwear.com
Lake County CVB - www.lakecountycvb.com
Leupold - www.leupold.com
Lightfield Ammunition Corp. - www.lightfieldslugs.com
Maptech - www.maptech.com
Midway USA - www.midwayusa.com
Muzzy Products Corp. - www.muzzy.com
Ninilchik Charters - www.ninilchik.com
Off Shore Tackle Co. - www.offshoretackle.com
Optronics, Inc. - www.optronicsinc.com
Orange County CVB - www.historicsouthernindiana.com
Outdoor Promotions - www.crappieusa.com and www.kingkatusa.com
Plano Molding Company - www.planomolding.com
Pure Fishing - www.purefishing.com
Quaker Boy, Inc. - www.quakerboygamecalls.com
Ranger Boat Company - www.rangerboats.com
Reef Runner Lures - www.reefrunner.com
Remington Arms - www.remington.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
Shakespeare Fishing Tackle - www.shakespeare-fishing.com
Shimano American Corporation - www.shimano.com
ThermaCELL - www.thermacell.com
Tri-Tronics, Inc. - www.tritronics.com
WaveSpin Reels - www.wavespinreel.com
W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery - www.wrcase.com
Wright & McGill Co. - www.eagleclaw.com
U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance - www.ussportsmen.org

HOW members are encouraged to contact our supporting members' websites for general information and answers to product and service questions.

HOW Member News



Mike Schoonveld Returns From Florida with “Fisherman’s Elbow”

I just returned from a trip to Florida. HOLY COWABONGA!!! We caught tons of sharks.....lemons, blacktips, nurse, spiney-heads, bulls, little guys, jumpers, grunters, runners, divers. We caught them on spinning gear and conventional tackle. We caught them with monofilament and braided line. My personal best was a 12 footer weighing 300 pounds. Some we caught with steel leaders, others we caught with monofilament. We

used live bait, dead bait and even some Berkley Gulp! I was so tired of catching sharks that a couple of times I told the captain to catch the shark and I put on the gloves, wired it, and pulled the hook.

We caught at least 2 dozen other species of fish besides, some edible and some not. We caught two great big tarpon, too. We also caught 4 swordfish one day -- not a record for our captain, but as he said on the way in -- there's probably not one other sportfishing boat in the whole world that caught 4 swordfish today. I believe him. Mostly because catching a swordfish is just about as fun as digging a hole 5 feet deep. We were fishing 1800 feet deep. It took 9 minutes for the sinker (a one gallon concrete anchor) to get to the bottom. When the fish bites, it takes longer than that to crank in all the line. Luckily, when the fish is hooked it swims to the surface instinctively. So you crank 2000 feet of line onto the reel with no fight, the fish pops to the surface, slops around for about 2.3 seconds (which is the only fun part) then you wind it to the boat where they can sink the gaff.

Nice and hot -- no tourists -- fancy resort -- expensive food and drink. A 6 pack at the convenience store was \$7.80 and a 3 liter box of wine cost 4 bucks more than a 5 liter box up here.

All in all, a great trip!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Michael Ellis Evacuates to Snow-Free Zone

HOW member Michael Ellis has retired from the Indiana DNR and moved to Florida, presumably in search of warmer weather and less taxes. Rumor has it that he may moonlight as a storm chaser for the Weather Channel when hurricane season cranks up next summer. In any case, here's what he had to say in a recent email note:

“Hello from warm and sunny Florida. I'm hoping to get in some fresh and salt water fishing before too long. Who knows, next year I may even apply to hunt bear and alligator. Should I be lucky enough to get drawn, it will definitely provide some interesting opportunities to test my hunting skills.”

“My new email address is: me_naturein@yahoo.com. Take care.”



Berg Brothers Take Kids to Pheasants Forever Youth Hunt

Tom Berg and his brother Mike recently took two of their kids, Mark and Christina, on a Youth Hunt with Pheasants Forever near Bremen, IN. The hunt was sponsored by the Elkhart County and St. Joseph County Chapters of Pheasants Forever, and it was held at the nearby Maier Game Farm.

Dozens of kids attended the hunt, all accompanied by a parent or designated adult. Although most hunters brought their own guns, loaner shotguns were available, too.

The kids started out with some safety instruction, then went to the range to practice on clay pigeons. They also shot .22 caliber rifles for a little added fun.

Once the kids were transported to the pheasant fields, each shooter was allowed to load one shotshell in their gun per bird. Then the handler would direct his dog to find the bird. As soon as the dog was on point, the bird was released by remote control and took off. Although the sudden sound of the bird flushing startled Mark, he was still able to get a good bead on his target and he shot both of his birds. Christina got one of her two birds.

Christina had attended the hunt last year, but this was Mark's first time. As a matter of fact, Mark had never been hunting before at all, and he said he had a great time. "It was cool," he said. Mark is a man of few words!



Brian Smith Becomes an ICE MAN

HOW Chairman of the Board Brian Smith reports that in addition to his Raghorn Adventures and Raghorn's Angling the Great Lakes television shows, he has a new venture in the works:

"Please check out our newest Television series called 'ICE MEN'. Warning... this is NOT your typical fishing production!!! We have broken away from the old, worn out template...."

"Ice Men is a reality-based competition-style production. Following four teams that compete in the NAIFC (North American Ice Fishing Circuit), Ice Men gives the viewer a sense of the chaotic and sometimes lunacy behind what it takes to win the NAIFC and be called 'Champion'."

This series is set to debut on Tuesday, December 30, 2008.

"Enjoy the first episode. I guarantee you will be blown away!!"

<http://homepage.mac.com/boutdoors/iMovieTheater66.html>



Bill Keaton Wins Pheasant Lottery, Pursues Wild Indiana Birds

HOW Legal Advisor Bill Keaton was one of the recent lucky winners in Indiana's Pheasant Lottery. He was one of the fortunate few who was chosen among the thousands of entries in the state's annual reserved pheasant hunt.

Bill was drawn to hunt one of the better areas for wild birds in Indiana – the Nickel Plate Gamebird Habitat Area in Benton County.

Each hunter is allowed to bring two guests, and Bill invited Mike Schoonveld and Tom Berg to accompany him. Bill brought along his faithful hunting dog Ike, too.



The opening day of pheasant season was cold and windy, but the birds were definitely present. Bill outshot both Tom and Mike, as he came back to the truck with his 2-pheasant limit.

As usual, the hunting was great and the camaraderie was even better!

HOW Members Should Prepare NOW For Upcoming “Fun Shoot”

HOW members should begin preparing now for the annual “Fun Shoot”, traditionally held on Friday morning prior to the annual conference. Since the weather is usually a bit chilly in February, shooting conditions can be a little tougher than normal – especially if you only shoot during the warm weather months!

But judging by recent weather patterns, now would be as good a time as any to get out there and practice in the cold and snow! Although we usually shoot a round of sporting clays, we have been known to shoot skeet, too. Send a note to the shoot coordinator, Mike Schoonveld, to sign up and voice your opinion on what you would like to shoot. Mike's email address is: capmike@hughes.net.

This year's shoot is scheduled for Friday, February 20, 2009. More details will be available in the upcoming “Pre-Conference Issue” of the Blade.

Calling All Entries for the 2009 Best Books of Indiana Competition:

Fifth-Annual State Book Contest Welcomes All Hoosier Authors

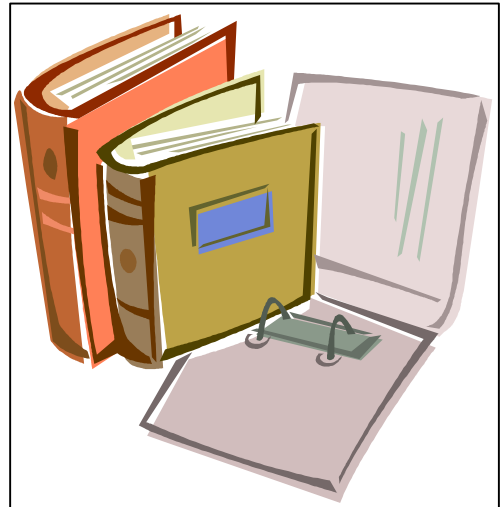
INDIANAPOLIS (October 31, 2008) - The Indiana Center for the Book invites entries for the 2009 Best Books of Indiana competition. This state book contest is open to books with original publication in 2008 and written either by an Indiana author or with an Indiana theme. The deadline for entries is Tuesday, March 31, 2009.

Indiana has a long and illustrious literary heritage. The Indiana Center for the Book created the Best Books of Indiana competition to honor this heritage and recognize Hoosier authors.

Categories for this year's competition include fiction, non-fiction, poetry, children's/young adult, and, new to this year's contest, art/design/illustration/photography. To enter, send the completed entry form (www.in.gov/library/files/08entryform.pdf) and six (6) non-returnable copies of the book to the Indiana Center for the Book, Indiana State Library, 140 N. Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Complete details and competition guidelines are available online at www.in.gov/library/2315.htm. Interested persons may also contact the Indiana Center for the Book by e-mail at agriffis@library.IN.gov, or by phone at (317) 650-6158.

A complete listing of past Best Books winners and finalists is available online at www.in.gov/library/2315.htm.



Don't forget to enter your book in the HOW Awards-In-Craft contest, too!

See the following pages for the rules.

The 2009 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

HOW CRAFTS AWARD CONTEST RULES

The contest year will be for material from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. All submissions, including photography, must have been printed, aired, published or electronically posted during the contest year. The only exception is for the Book contest. Books may have been published at any time.

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 Web site or a not-for-hire Web site 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.

RULES FOR SUBMISSION

- 1) Contest entries must be postmarked no later than Jan. 20, 2009. Entries postmarked after that date will be disqualified. Send all entries to the proper contest coordinator (see below).
- 2) An official HOW contest entry form must accompany each entry. Photocopies of the form used with submissions will be accepted.
- 3) Send no material that needs to be returned **. No original material is required. In the print contests, photocopies are welcome. In the photo contest, reprints are welcome. In broadcast, tapes or recordings are welcome. ** In the book contest, include a SASE for return of books (or claim them at the conference).
- 4) All submissions of print entries (either from traditional paper or electronic media) must consist of two copies of each article with bylines and publication names obliterated. Both photocopies and contest entry form should be placed in a single envelope separate from other entries with the contest and division written on the outside of the envelope. Multiple entry envelopes may be submitted in one mailer.
- 5) Entries into the broadcast category require only one tape or recording and may be 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 be prints only (no slides or electronic submissions will be accepted). Only one print is required for each entry.
- 7) There is a limit of two entries per category.

CONTEST DIVISIONS

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

WRITING ARTICLE CATEGORIES

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

PHOTOGRAPHY AND ART CATEGORIES

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

BROADCAST CATEGORIES

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

BOOK CATEGORY

- 12) Best Book

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

Evie Kirkwood
67583 Northshore Drive
Edwardsburg, MI 49112

For all Photography and Broadcast entries, send submissions to the Photo/Broadcast Coordinator:

Mike Schoonveld
6312 W 100 N
Morocco, IN 47963

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

Tom Berg
2142 Nondorf Street
Dyer, IN 46311

2009 HOW AWARDS-IN-CRAFT CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Category _____ Division _____

Title: _____

Where published/aired: _____

Publication/air date: _____

**Entries and forms must be mailed and POSTMARKED
no sooner than January 1, 2009 and no later than January 20, 2009**



Hunter's Choice Award for America's Best-Looking Deer

Sponsored by Remington and the USSA

The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance (USSA), the nation's leader in defending your right to hunt, fish and trap, and Remington Arms, Inc, the world's leading manufacturer of firearms, ammunition, targets and accessories, have created a contest to recognize America's successful deer hunters.

To enter, simply submit a photo of your deer, antlered or antlerless, taken during the 2008-2009 hunting season along with a \$5.00 entry fee. Interested sportsmen and sportswomen may email entries to: contest@ussportsmen.org with payment made via credit card using the form found at www.ussportsmen.org/hunterschoice. Please refer to the reference number located in the donation confirmation email when sending your submission by email.

The winning entry will be published in Fur-Fish-Game magazine and receive a Bushnell Rangefinder and a Remington Prize Package. Second and third place prizes will also be awarded. In addition, all non USSA member entries get a three month trial email membership. All member entries will get a 10% off coupon for any in-stock U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance product. It's easy to participate and everyone who enters is a winner!

Entries can also be sent via the postal service to:

Hunter's Choice

U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance
801 Kingsmill Parkway
Columbus, OH 43229

Be sure to include your name, address, phone number and email address. Also, please provide when, where and how you took your deer shot along with a check, money order or credit card information. You may also send in the photo with above information and contact us by phone at (614) 888-4868 to give us your credit card payment over the phone.

Entries will be judged by USSA panel of experts on the deer's overall quality of appearance, shape of the rack (if applicable) and the photo background. From all submissions, 25 finalists will be selected. Finalists will be judged online by the public during a two week voting period. The top three vote getters will be the winners. Voting will be at www.ussportsmen.org/hunterschoice.

Entries must be submitted and postmarked by February 2, 2009. Voting will begin on February 16, 2009 and will end on February 27, 2009 at 5:00 PM EST. Winners will be announced the week of March 2, 2009.

All submissions must be in color of legally taken deer, using a bow, firearm or primitive weapon. By submitting your photo and signing the release form, you enter the photo as property of USSA and allow USSA to use the photo for purposes other than this contest. All entries agree to be bound by the choices made by the selection committee.

For more information, contact the USSA at (614) 888-4868 or visit www.ussportsmen.org/hunterschoice. Thanks in advance for your entry and good luck!

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Annual Conference Registration



**The Garrison, Fort Harrison State Park, Indianapolis Feb 21, 2009
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Information to appear on badge:

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Title: _____

Affiliation: _____

Contact information:

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Are you:

_____ **First time conference attendee?**

_____ **New member of HOW since Feb 2008?**

Please print this application and mail it along with \$25 for each person attending by check payable to "Hoosier Outdoor Writers" and send to:

**Tom Berg
HOW Conference
2142 Nondorf Street
Dyer, Indiana 46311-1829**

HOW Awards-In-Craft Winner

First Place, Fishing Category (under 1000 words)

Bundle up! Now's the time to go ice fishing

by: John Martino

I can't help but sigh and shake my head every time I pass by a fenced-in boat yard and glimpse a sea of shrink-wrapped watercraft. There's all that blue and white plastic - sealing in those fishing stories and trips not yet materialized. But, this is Indiana!

In these strange times, seasonal patterns are unpredictable even with ultra advanced technologies like Doppler, Viper and a host of satellite imagery. Personally, I believe God made weathermen to prove to us he's the one still in charge.

Up until recently, we have been fortunate. Our winter has merely been an extension of the fall season. I mean 60 degree days in December? But I did say "until recently."

It is preposterous to consider lasting the winter months without feeling a tug on the line. Now, thanks to our recent cold snap, it's time to ice fish!

Why sit on the couch when you can be outside? It's time to put on your long underwear and slip on your wool socks. Climb into your snow pants, pull down your sock hat and grab your fishing rods. There is now ice on the lakes and it's time to enjoy a true Indiana adventure.

Ice fishing is both easy and exciting. It's fun walking over the water's hard surface imagining hungry crappies, bluegills and walleyes lurking right under your feet. Talk about delicious. Nothing beats fresh fish taken from cold water.

Ice fishing can be a friendly activity and social in nature. When the catching is slow, often you can walk over to the nearest group and swap stories about conditions or past fishing exploits. It's also a great time to share information and pick up important ice fishing tips.

There are few cold weather activities more fun than hanging around holes cut into the ice with family and friends. One caveat is to choose your days wisely. Avoid days that are dangerously cold compounded by strong winds. Last weekend for example I questioned my own sanity, which I find myself doing way too often.

"I don't know whether you're sick or just plain stupid," some guy said from the warmth of his Jeep as I walked off the ice alone last Saturday. "Take your pick," I replied, trying to pull the ice off my frozen mustache. Although the thermometer read six degrees, the 30 MPH wind and white-out conditions made it feel much worse.

Of course the most important aspect of any ice fishing endeavor is safety. Learning how to read ice thickness is an art developed with practice. Every winter without exception, someone invariably asks me to print a chart indicating safe ice thicknesses. Due to the number of variables associated with safe and unsafe ice. Due to the number of variables associated with safe and unsafe ice, I will not. In some cases, ice three inches in depth can be stronger than ice five inches thick. However, there are a few pointers to avoid that "sinking" feeling.

Remember that springs, currents, repeated thaws and re-freezing, snow cover and even fish can all affect ice depth and strength. While it may seem that deep snow is a good sign, beware: snow is actually a great insulator and can inhibit ice production.

It's always good to punch several test holes as you make your way across a lakes frozen surface. There is an old saying among hard water anglers - "When in doubt, don't go out."

If you've never tried the sport of ice fishing before, that is no reason to stay inside until the sun's rays again turn warm. Bundle up, be adventurous and try fishing a whole new way. It's not the latest cold weather clothing or newest electronic gadgets that make an ice fishermen. It's much simpler and less expensive than that. All it really takes is desire.

So how do you get started? That's simple too. Just ask any hard water angler to take you out. I guarantee they will be more than happy to share the warmth!

E-mail An Invitation to Hunt and Shoot This Holiday Season

NEWTOWN, Conn. -- When it comes to gift giving, there's hardly a gift that can compare to enjoying an outdoors experience with a family member or a friend. Now you can deliver that gift in the form of an invitation to go hunting or target shooting by sending an e-mail postcard through www.stepoutside.org.



A program of the National Shooting Sports Foundation

Visitors to www.stepoutside.org can choose from nine photo-illustrated cards that showcase various types of hunting and target shooting. After choosing a card, you simply fill in a personalized message and enter the recipient's name and e-mail address. The postcard is then automatically sent to your hunting or shooting partner's inbox.

"Every one of us -- every target shooter and hunter -- and anyone that carries a passion in their hearts for the great outdoors was once asked to STEP OUTSIDE," said Dave Miles, marketing director for the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), which developed the STEP OUTSIDE program. "We all remember that first hunt or day at the range and the many more memories of days in the field we've enjoyed. For every potential new hunter and shooter out there, it all begins with an invitation. Our Web site was designed with one goal in mind: to help and encourage all of us to extend that all-important invitation."

NSSF's STEP OUTSIDE program is based on the premise that men and women who are passionate about hunting and shooting owe it to the future of these activities to introduce them to newcomers. To date, the program has been a key element in exposing hundreds of thousands of newcomers to the outdoors.

Visitors to the STEP OUTSIDE Web site can also enter a sweepstakes for a chance to win one of five \$1,000 gift cards to Bass Pro Shops.

11th Anniversary

2009 State-Fish Art Contest

Start your Fish Art!

**Students in Grades 4-12 Eligible to Win Scholarships,
Art Supplies & Fishing Gear**

BROOKLYN CENTER, MN - Students across the United States have the opportunity to win recognition and prizes while learning about state-fish species, aquatic habitats, and conservation. The Wildlife Forever State-Fish Art Contest uses art to catch the imagination of youth while teaching fisheries conservation.

**Entries must be postmarked by March 31, 2009.
Winners will be announced May 1, 2009.**

The 11th Annual *Wildlife Forever State-Fish Art Contest* is open to all students in grades 4 through 12.

To enter, young artists nationwide must create an illustration of their chosen state-fish. A written composition on its behavior, habitat, and conservation is also required.

Educators and Parents: Visit the State-Fish Art website at www.statefishart.com for complete details, contest entry forms and to download the **free *Something's Fishy* lesson plan**.

About Wildlife Forever

Wildlife Forever is a multi-species non-profit conservation organization that works to preserve America's wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat and scientific management of fish and wildlife species. Working at the grassroots level, Wildlife Forever has funded conservation projects in all 50 states, committing millions of dollars to "on the ground" conservation efforts. To learn more or to donate, please visit www.wildlifeforever.org.

For more information contact Pat Conzemius at Wildlife Forever, 2700 Freeway Blvd., #1000, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430, by email at pconzemius@wildlifeforever.org or call (763) 253-0222

DNR NEWS

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington St. W255 B
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It's illegal to sell native turtles

The recent search of a northern Indiana man's residence has revealed the illegal possession and selling of native turtles, which has prompted Indiana Department of Natural Resources conservation officers to remind the public that such activity is illegal, costly and can result in imprisonment.

All reptiles and amphibians native to Indiana are regulated. Species of turtles, frogs, lizards, salamanders, snakes or toads on the state or federal endangered species list cannot be taken from the wild at any time, nor can box turtles, except for those designated as game animals. Examples of game turtles are the common snapping, smooth softshell and spiny softshell turtle.

"Native turtles are an important part of our natural heritage," said Lt. Mark Farmer, public information officer for the DNR Division of Law Enforcement. "In some cases their numbers may be threatened due to poachers who illegally remove them from the wild to be sold as pets or to collectors."

Even if a turtle is not native to Indiana, the Food and Drug Administration prohibits the selling of turtles with a shell under 4 inches in length in an effort to prevent contact with turtles carrying the Salmonella bacteria.

Examples of state-endangered native turtles include alligator snapping turtle, Eastern mud turtle, spotted turtle and Blanding's turtle.

Rick R. Bancroft, 45, of Elkhart, faces misdemeanor charges in Elkhart and Noble counties for allegedly selling protected turtles, including Eastern box, Blanding's, red-eared sliders, ornate box and Eastern mud turtles. The search of the residence was the result of a six-month investigation by DNR conservation officers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The investigation began at a Noble County swap meet, where Bancroft allegedly sold protected turtles to numerous people, including undercover DNR conservation officers. Conservation officers also allege Bancroft was selling turtles from his Elkhart residence.

Possible penalties could include one-year imprisonment and up to a \$5,000 fine on each charge of illegal possession or sale of wildlife. For more on endangered species in the state, see endangeredwildlife.IN.gov. For more on game turtles, see the state Hunting and Trapping Guide at dnr.IN.gov/fishwild.

Media contact: Lt. Mark Farmer, Indiana Conservation Officer PIO, phone: (317) 232-0658, mfarmer@dnr.IN.gov; Indiana Conservation Officer PIO Rodney Clear, phone: (260) 409-1160, rclear@dnr.IN.gov.

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 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 insure 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 Writing Contest among its members. The award winners are announced each year at HOW's annual meeting held in Indianapolis.

What We Stand For

These are what we strive to accomplish:

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

Membership Requirements

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

1. Active

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



magazines or specialty journal articles a year, or one book, 10 lectures, or 20 bona fide outdoor news releases a year.)

The legal advisor for the association shall be an active member without meeting the basic guidelines.

2. Associate

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

3. Supporting

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

4. Active Student

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

5. Associate Student

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