

The Blade

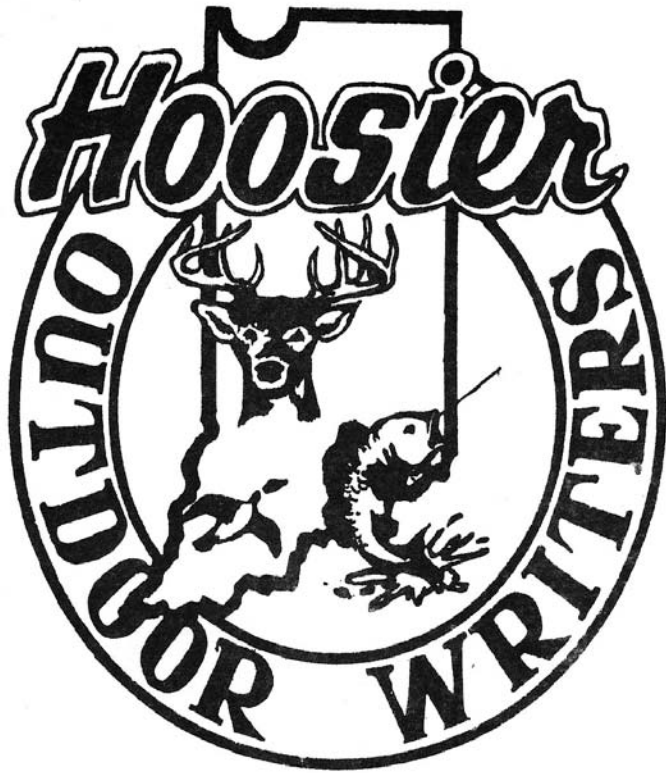
2015 Post-Conference Issue

May - June 2015

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Great Horned Owl At Pokagon SP", photo by Tom Berg



Hoosier Outdoor Writers

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

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On the cover: A great horned owl named "Apollo" (from Fort Wayne's Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehab group) poses for a photo after an informative seminar at the recent HOW conference. Tom Berg photo.



President's Message

by Alan Garbers

NMLRA Spring Shoot at Friendship, Indiana

As Hoosiers, we know the month of May hosts one of the biggest spectacles in racing, the Indy 500. But, did you know that a few weeks later Indiana hosts one of the biggest spectacles in black powder shooting? That's when the sleepy town of Friendship swells with visitors from around the world that want to shop, shoot, and socialize with other folks that love pre-1840 firearms, living history, and punching paper targets.

I am referring to the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association's Spring Shoot that took place from June 13-21. I hope you to made the trip this year or are planning to do it next year. There is so much to see and do.

The NMLRA grounds are divided by State Road 62 in Ripley County. The side to the north is known as the "modern" side. It has the majority of the shooting ranges, as well as the vender buildings known as the "Sheep Sheds". The southern half is affectionately known as the "primitive" side. It is there that diehard enthusiasts pitch period-correct tents and cook over open fires. Along with the primitive camping, there are many historically correct buildings.

I know it's a long trip and some may not be interested in black powder firearms, so here's a list of other activities:

1. **Shopping** – Not only are there countless vendors selling everything from period-correct clothing to custom-made flintlocks, the NMLRA grounds are sandwiched between two massive flea markets that sell everything else known to man. Add to that, every resident within a thirty-mile radius plans for the massive influx of people, and have countless yard and garage sales. Lastly, many campers on the "primitive" side have trade blankets in front of their tent. Anything on the blanket is for sale or trade. Exciting deals can be had from a trade blanket.
2. **Pageantry** – Many participants go to great lengths to portray the pre-1840 culture and lifestyle. Most of them have thousands of dollars invested in their firearms, lodging, clothing, and gear. Everything from western free-trappers to Revolutionary War military personnel are portrayed. Some are authentic down to the way their clothes are stitched and the change in their pockets.
3. **How-to** – During the shoot, the NMLRA holds how-to classes on ancient crafts, known as "living arts". Some classes are free, others require a fee.
4. **Friendship** – This isn't just a place, it's a way of life. Many of the NMLRA rendezvous participants develop life-long friendships that last long past the trip home. Some return year after year for the fun and camaraderie that spans generations.
5. **Scenery** – Friendship is located in one of the more rugged and remote areas of Indiana. Driving down many of the roads reminds travelers of the farms found in Virginia. In October, the hardwood forest turns brilliant colors, rivaling New England in the fall. Vintage barns and stone fences are commonplace and make for great photography.



The NMLRA Spring Shoot is considered a rendezvous more than a historical enactment, meaning the spring shoot doesn't commemorate a battle or event. Historically, a rendezvous was a gathering of free-spirited trappers and traders to exchange furs for goods. Often, contests of knife throwing, tomahawk throwing, horseback riding, and

shooting complemented the trading. The whole event highlighted their individualism. Sans the feats of skill on horseback, the NMLRA rendezvous is little different.

While enjoyable, a historical enactment is of another nature. Generally, the participants of the event strive to portray specific military units that were in specific battles. These units strive for authenticity from the boots they wear to the insignia on their hats, from the piping on their uniforms to the color of their stockings. Each unit has strict guidelines of what can be worn and not worn. Obviously, a Continental Army private would not be camping in an officer's tent, nor would a unit outfitted in Virginia be wearing the same gear as a unit from New England. The re-enactor strives to perfect their military drill and maneuvers, and that's just one of the events from this spring's recent gathering. A unit of Civil War re-enactors were giving demonstrations and performing live cannon fire.



“Friendship”, as it’s known to black powder enthusiasts, is something kids to adult will remember long after the visit. If you didn’t make it to Friendship this spring, don’t despair. While one of the biggest, they are not the only event in Indiana.

There are many other smaller and personal black powder events around Indiana all summer. The NMLRA’s publication, Muzzle Blasts (<http://nmlra.org>) lists many of them, as does The Smoke & Fire News (www.smoke-fire.com). Visit www.nmlra.org/nmlra-events/june-spring-shoot/ for more information.



Many visitors to Friendship wear period-correct clothing from the early 1800s. Alan Garbers photos.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

Scott Weaver (Associate)
Indianapolis, IN
Sponsor: Don Cranfill

Memorial to Deceased HOW Members

Those Who Have Gone Before Us:

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

Past Presidents of HOW

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



The Annual HOW Fun Shoot: Windy Weather Didn't Stop Us!



by Tom Berg

The 2015 HOW Fun Shoot held prior to the conference at Pokagon State Park was enjoyed by all who attended. A great group of HOW members and guests met at Young Guns Clay Sports in nearby



HOW members (left to right) Josh Lantz, Bill Keaton, Phil Seng and guest Laura Seng (behind Bill Keaton) enjoy the sunny spring weather during the shoot at Young Guns Sporting Clays. Fun Shoot photos by Tom Berg.

Wolcottville, IN and everyone had an enjoyable time. As usual, we shot a standard round of sporting clays (10 stations, 10 shots each). A gale-force west wind hindered us at the first couple of stations, but once we moved into the woods we were protected from the wind and we all warmed up.

The facilities at Young Guns Clay Sports were perfect for shooting sporting clays, as the course is set up through the woods and on the edges of neighboring farm fields. They have 10 stations with two elevated stands, simulated quail targets and a challenging rabbit station. Clay pigeons flying overhead through openings in the trees simulated startled birds fleeing at high speeds. It was great fun!

Even though there was a chill in the air, everyone had a good time. The attendees were divided into groups of four or five shooters each before heading off to the sporting clay course. Some started at one end of the course while others moved to the middle shooting stations. This kept things moving quickly.

After the shooting was done and the smoke cleared, it was time to tally the results. Ken McBroom came out on top this year with the best score, so he was crowned champion for the day. **Congrats, Ken!** Phil Seng, always among the top shooters, came in a close second. We had two new shooters with us this year, too: Troy McCormick and Carolee Vannatta, and they had a great time. Join us next year to get in on the fun!

After the shoot, most of the members headed for Pokagon State Park to get ready for our Friday Evening BBQ. It was held at the Wild Turkey shelter inside nearby Trine State Recreation Area. We had worked up a pretty good appetite, so we were ready to eat!

HOW would like to extend a big thank-you to **Winchester** for supplying the ammunition for the shooters this year. Thanks also goes to Young Guns Clay Sports for their hospitality and for allowing us to use their fine facility.



Josh Lantz takes careful aim at a fast-moving clay pigeon.

2015 HOW Conference

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers would like to thank the following companies and organizations:



Awards-in-Craft Sponsor



Friday Evening BBQ Sponsor



Conference Lunch Sponsor

Sponsors of the 2015 HOW Annual Conference

HOW Raffle Donors - 2015

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Montauk Mike's Lures
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Reef Runner Lures
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Snag Proof Manufacturing
SportDOG
St. Croix Rods
Streamlight
Sturm, Ruger & Co.
Super Brush LLC
Tales End Tackle
ThermaCELL
Tink's
Trophy Angler's Tackle
TTI-Blakemore Fishing
Vexilar, Inc.
WaveSpin Reels
White Flyer Targets
Winchester Ammunition
Xtreme Hardcore Gear
Yakima Bait Co.
Z-Man Fishing Products

2015 HOW Conference At Pokagon State Park Another Success



A view of the main entrance to Pokagon's Potawatomi Inn. This was a great venue for the 2015 HOW conference.

Since 2010, the HOW conference planners have invested a lot of time and energy in finding and securing interesting new locations around the state for our annual meeting. It's a great idea and it allows our members to experience different areas of Indiana that they may not be familiar with. In 2010, we met at the Fourwinds Resort on south-central Indiana's Lake Monroe. Since then, we have visited west-central Indiana (Turkey Run SP),

northwest Indiana (Lake County), southeast Indiana (Clifty Falls SP), central Indiana (Fort Harrison SP) and now northeast Indiana (Pokagon SP).

The 2015 HOW Conference was held at Pokagon State Park near the small town of Angola, and it was an excellent choice. We had great attendance again this year, exceptional speakers and plenty of opportunities to learn new things. If you didn't attend this conference you really missed a great time! If you're not sure what you missed, check out the next few pages of the newsletter to get a glimpse of the fun we had!

The Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park has excellent conference facilities and a very attentive staff, and our event was another great success. Many HOW members took advantage of the lodging at the State Park inn and stayed the entire weekend, while others just came in for the day to attend the HOW meeting. Our meeting room was spacious and well-appointed, the catered food was first-rate and the conference provided another great opportunity to learn new things and reconnect with old friends.



Traditionally, the HOW Conference actually starts on the Friday afternoon preceding the annual meeting on Saturday. This year's conference was no different, and at 1:00pm on Friday, April 10, a group of HOW members met at Young Guns Clay Sports near Wolcottville for the annual HOW Fun Shoot. The weather was windy, but the camaraderie was still excellent. For details, see page 6. After the shooting was done, we drove to Pokagon State Park and joined other HOW members who were already gathering for the Friday evening barbecue!

At 6:00pm on Friday evening, nearly 30 HOW members, spouses and guests met at the Wild Turkey shelter inside Trine State Recreation Area (pretty much just across the highway from Pokagon) for a special barbecue dinner. We had burgers, brats and a special treat – Tom Berg brought several lake trout fillets from a recent Lake Michigan fishing trip. Everything was grilled to perfection and there was plenty to eat.



HOW members and their spouses and friends enjoy themselves at the barbecue on Friday evening at Trine State Recreation Area. Conference photos by Tom Berg.

Our friends at Steuben County Tourism sponsored the barbecue, and Janet Hartsuff from the tourism bureau was present to welcome the HOW members and answer any questions about the local area. Ted Bohman, park manager at Pokagon, was also present and gave us a tour of the recently completed facilities at Trine.

As usual, the weather was colder than most of us would have liked for the barbecue, but that didn't stop Bryan Poynter from wearing shorts! We all had a wonderful time, though, in spite of the chilly conditions. A big thank-you goes to Steuben County Tourism for their hospitality in sponsoring the barbecue!

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



Terri Trowbridge talks about the NMLRA in Friendship, IN.

HOW President Bob Sawtelle called the meeting to order at 9:00am and provided opening remarks, then briefed those present on the day's schedule. When he was done, he introduced the first seminar speaker: June Julien from the Steuben County Tourism Bureau. She welcomed the HOW membership to Pokagon and gave a short description of the many things to see and do in the "Lakes Country" region of NE Indiana. She then turned the podium over to Pokagon Park Manager Ted Bohman who gave us a short history of the park and provided many insights into the excellent local fishing.

The second speaker was our very own HOW member Terri Trowbridge. Terri is the Director of Publications for the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association (NMLRA) based in Friendship, IN. She described the mission of the NMLRA and talked about some of the activities and muzzleloader shoots hosted by the NMLRA each year (including their National Youth Shoot). She also described the publications of the group,

such as Muzzle Blasts and The Longhunter Society Muzzleloading Big Game Record Book.

The next speaker was Indiana Conservation Officer Levi Knach from the DNR Division of Law Enforcement's Canine Unit. Officer Knach was accompanied by his canine partner Kenobi, a chocolate lab with boundless energy! Officer Knach gave an informative presentation on Indiana's K9 unit and how they utilize their dogs to help catch fugitives and solve crimes.

He also showed how quickly Kenobi can sniff out a small quantity of game meat (venison, in this case) by hiding it in our conference room. Kenobi found it instantly!



Before breaking for lunch, President Bob Sawtelle called the HOW Business Meeting to order. HOW Nominating Chairman John Martino presented the proposed slate of new officers for the coming year. Alan Garbers was elected President, Ken McBroom was elected Vice-President and Bob Sawtelle will become the Board Chairman. Our new Board members (terms expiring in 2017) include: Teena Ligman, John Maxwell, Troy McCormick, Wally Pritz and Gary Redmon. Thank you to all of our new volunteers!

Before the Business Meeting was concluded, outgoing President Sawtelle asked HOW member Don Cranfill if he would take the podium and give a short speech about the HOW/Bass Pro Shops “Pass It On” Award. Don nominated this year’s winner, so he helped Bob Sawtelle make the formal presentation of the award. This year’s recipient was Mrs. April Perry from Fort Wayne. Mrs. Perry is the founder and organizer of the Big Turkey Lake Kids Fishing Tournament in Stroh, IN. President Sawtelle presented her with a beautiful award plaque, along with a check to help with the next kid’s tournament.



Outgoing HOW President Bob Sawtelle (R) presents April Perry (L) with the HOW/Bass Pro Shops “Pass It On” Award for her volunteer work with the Big Turkey Lake Kids Fishing Tournament and archery clinic.

Mrs. Perry’s volunteer work began 14 years ago when she organized the first Big Turkey Lake Kids Fishing Tournament. That tournament was attended by 18 kids. Last year’s event featured 275 kids, and the 2015 tournament is expected to be even bigger. April Perry has touched the lives of many hundreds of children and helped them learn an appreciation of the outdoors. She has our sincere thanks. A special thank-you also goes to Katie Mitchell and **Bass Pro Shops** for sponsoring the Pass It On award.

After the awards presentation, an excellent buffet lunch was served by the Potawatomi Inn staff. Everyone relaxed and socialized for an hour before the afternoon activities began.

The first seminar after lunch was the highly anticipated ‘Birds of Prey’ demonstration organized by the local Fort Wayne Soarin’ Hawk Raptor Rehab (SHRR) group. SHRR focuses on the rescue, treatment, flight conditioning and release of rehabilitated birds of prey. They also host educational programs for young people and other members of the community, teaching the important relationship between raptors and humans, and efforts to support habitat and species preservation.



As part of their program, the volunteers from SHRR brought a number of live birds of prey to the HOW conference. These native Indiana raptors included a large red-tailed hawk, a sleek peregrine falcon,

a barred owl, a great horned owl, a screech owl and a kestrel. Pam Whitace and Bob Walton from SHRR brought each bird out one at a time to show the conference attendees and tell a little about the individual and its species.

These majestic birds were very beautiful and gave everyone present a better appreciation for how they live, hunt and survive in the wild. After their presentation was finished, the SHRR bird handlers took a few of the birds outside so HOW members could take additional photos. The photo session also turned into an informative question and answer period!

Following the birds of prey presentation, incoming HOW President Alan Garbers and Tom Berg made the **2015 HOW Awards-In-Craft** presentation. Cash prizes and certificates were awarded to the best of the best in the annual Writing Contest, the Photography Contest and the Broadcast Contest. Many thanks go to Toyota Motor Sales for once again sponsoring our contests and recognizing the achievements of our members. Check the contest results on pages 14-15 to see who submitted the best work this year.

The final conference presentation of the day was led by Hunter's Specialties and Realtree Pro Staff member Carl Drake. Mr. Drake is a lifelong outdoorsman, hunter, conservationist and fellow Hoosier! He is also a champion turkey caller and is a 3-time Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana State Owl Calling Champ.



Above: Pam Whitace from SHRR talks about the small rufous-colored screech owl that she is holding.
Below: Bob Walton describes how red-tailed hawks like this one catch mice and other small prey.



Carl Drake (left) demonstrates the proper technique for calling in that big tom turkey. Dave Hoffman (right) watches carefully and then tries it himself.

Since the Indiana turkey season was just days away, Mr. Drake's presentation was very timely. He discussed how to locate turkeys and call them in with just the right call. He demonstrated slate calls, mouth calls and different box calls. His turkey calls and imitations were extremely lifelike and he was a very entertaining speaker! He also gave advice on when not to use certain calls. All of the turkey hunters in the crowd were very attentive during his seminar, and many seasoned hunters learned some valuable lessons from him.

As usual, the final activity of the day was the annual HOW Raffle. This is the favorite part of the meeting for many HOW members! Raffle chairman Tom Berg organized an amazing event again this year, easily filling several banquet tables with fabulous outdoor products from our loyal HOW Supporting

Members (and many new Supporting Members). This year he and his helpers came close to breaking the raffle record by securing donations from **97** companies, organizations and individuals. Tom would like to thank John Galambos and Rich Creason for their help in securing many of the items this year.



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

The moment the raffle tickets went on sale, a long line formed behind the ticket sales table. Since long-time ticket hawker Jack Spaulding was unable to attend the conference this year, HOW member Bryan Poynter stepped-up to the plate and handled the ticket sales.

This year's raffle featured quality as well as quantity when it came to the items to be raffled-off. Firearms enthusiasts were very happy with this year's raffle prizes, as we had a Henry *American Beauty* lever-action .22 caliber rifle, a Mossberg 5.56mm MVP Varmint rifle, two Marlin rifles and a premium Gamo .22 caliber air rifle. There were also shooting supplies, targets, riflescopes and a great assortment of ammunition.

Fishermen in the crowd were wowed by a spectacular array of premium fishing rods, fishing reels, tackle boxes, Great Lakes trolling gear, fishing line and lures of all shapes, sizes and colors. There was also lots of icefishing tackle, including icefishing rod/reel combos, tipups and icefishing lures. There were hunting blinds, a first-class camp stove, lights, premium sunglasses, electronic dog training gear, camera gear, hunting gear, scents, hats, gloves, boots, waterproof binoculars, spotting scopes, knives, boat-care products, tents, camping gear, gift certificates and a top-quality gun cleaning system. There were also hunting calls, turkey hunting gear, archery gear, outdoor apparel for both summer and winter, knife sharpeners, outdoors books, calendars, instructional DVDs, cast iron cookware, and lots of other outdoor gear.

Our Raffle Chairman did a great job securing and storing the raffle items over the past few months, and Bryan would have made Jack very proud selling tickets this year. The 2015 raffle was another huge success!

Of course, without the involvement and generosity of our Supporting Members the raffle would not happen at all. For a complete list of this year's raffle donors, please study page 8. Please support them in your work whenever possible, and send them a thank-you note when you get a chance.



The photos shown here are just a few of the many tables filled to overflowing with great outdoor products (and services) for the HOW Outdoor Writers Raffle.

The HOW 2015 Awards-In-Craft Contest

The results are in! The winners of the 2015 Awards-In-Craft contest were announced at this year's annual conference at Pokagon State Park, and we had a huge number of excellent entries. As usual, the writing portion of the contest garnered the most interest, as HOW members submitted a total of 85 entries from 12 different HOW members. The number of writing contest entries rose slightly this year when compared to 2014, so join the crowd next year and send in your entries! The photography contest included 31 entries from six HOW members, and the Broadcast contest featured four entries from three members. Writing and Photo entries were required to be submitted electronically again this year, and it went very well. Next year we hope to have even more members participate!

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

Once again this year the Awards-In-Craft contest was sponsored by Toyota Motor Sales, so the winners were awarded checks along with certificates to commemorate their achievements. We would like to thank Toyota for their generous sponsorship in 2015. HOW members are encouraged to log on to the Toyota website (www.toyotanewsroom.com) to find out more about their products and recent news releases.

A special thank-you also goes to our contest coordinators who donated their time and energy to secure judges and get each of the entries reviewed and scored in time for the annual conference. Dealing with a large number of submissions which are typically sent right before the deadline always makes coordinating the entries/judges difficult, but the electronic entries really helped. The 2015 Awards-In-Craft coordinators were: Jarrett Manek (Writing), John Martino (Photography) and Tom Berg (Broadcast).

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

WRITING

(85 entries from 12 different HOW members)

Less Than 1000 Words

Hunting/Trapping

1st: Mike Schoonveld, "The Antler Whisperer"

2nd: P.J. Perea, "Hit Me With Your Best Shot"

3rd: Alan Garbers, "16 Steps To Be Ready
For Coon Season"

Fishing

1st: Tom Berg, "Target Indiana's Fall Saugeyes"

2nd: John Martino, "Local Bait Shops Offer
More Than Bait"

2nd: Mike Schoonveld, "Long Range Casting"

More Than 1000 Words

Hunting/Trapping

1st: Ken McBroom, "Old School Squirrel Hunt"

2nd: Tom Berg, "Weekend Warriors On The
Trapline"

3rd: Alan Garbers, "Where To Look For That
Trophy Buck"

Fishing

1st: Tom Berg, "Targeting Indiana's Returning
Kings"

2nd: Tom Berg, "Fab Slabs"

3rd: Mike Schoonveld, "The Coho Zone"

(Continued on next page)

Less Than 1000 Words

Conservation

- 1st: Mike Schoonveld, "Pheasants Forever
4-Stars Again"
2nd: John Martino, "Farmer Goes From Poacher
To Preservationist"
3rd: Rich Creason, "Death Of An American"
- TIE -
3rd: John Martino, "Badgers Part Of
Hoosier Outdoors"

General Outdoors

- 1st: Mike Schoonveld, "Duck Stamp Price"
Increase Is Good News"
2nd: Mike Schoonveld, "Our Water, Our
Treasure"
3rd: John Martino, "Saying Goodbye To
Dogs Is Tough"

PHOTOGRAPHY

(31 entries from 6 different HOW members)

Hunting/Trapping

- 1st: John Maxwell, "Monroe Duck Hunt
Stillwater Marsh"
2nd: Tom Berg, "Trapping The Marsh"
3rd: Ken McBroom, "Old School Squirrel Hunt"

Outdoor Scenic

- 1st: John Maxwell, "Goose Pond Full Moon"
2nd: Tom Berg, "Hummingbird Rest Area"
3rd: John Maxwell, "Titmouse"

BROADCAST

(4 entries from 3 different HOW members)

Best TV Broadcast

- 1st: P.J. Perea, "Late Season Deer Hunting"
2nd: P.J. Perea, "Protect Your Hunt Club"
3rd: -- No Entry --

More Than 1000 Words

Conservation

- 1st: Rich Creason, "Indiana – Home Of The
Tallgrass Prairie"
2nd: Paul Moore, "Bobwhites In The Bluegrass"
3rd: Paul Moore, "Rabbit Hunters Need To
Embrace Quail Restoration"

General Outdoors

- 1st: Paul Moore, "Cool Kentucky Hikes"
2nd: Alan Garbers, "3 Ways To Safely
Transport Wild Game"
3rd: Rich Creason, "The Big Itch"

Fishing

- 1st: Tom Berg, "Last Cast"
2nd: P.J. Perea, "Bream Boy"
3rd: P.J. Perea, "Hunting The Water Buffalo"

Outdoor Recreation

- 1st: P.J. Perea, "Tomahawk Boy"
2nd: P.J. Perea, "Canoe Flipper"
3rd: Tom Berg, "Cold Weather Skeet Shoot"

Best Video

- 1st: Kreig Adkins, "Muskrat Trapping Secrets"
2nd: John Maxwell, "Indiana State Fair
Architecture Tour"
3rd: -- No Entry --

DNR News

Division of State Parks

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



For immediate release: May 8, 2015

Eagles hatch for first time at Potato Creek SP

Persistence has paid off for bald eagles at Potato Creek State Park.

This spring is the fourth consecutive year a bald eagle pair has nested at Potato Creek and the first that eagles have produced offspring, hatching three eaglets in a remote area.

Within a few days, the view of the nest will be blocked by leaves.

But park visitors can look for the eagles over Worster Lake as the birds catch fish for their young. The best places to watch are the fishing pier by the Porter Rea Cemetery and the East Boat Launch.

The chicks should be ready to fly by late June. This fall they will disperse and wander around North America for four years. When they are 4-5 years old, they will return to the area where they hatched to find a mate and nest.

The pair that hatched the eaglets this year is likely the same pair that nested unsuccessfully the three previous years. But there is no way for park officials to be certain.

In 2012 and 2013, bald eagles enhanced an osprey nest by adding sticks and were observed mating. However, they left when the ospreys returned and did not have young. In 2014, eagles built their own nest in the park's southwest corner, but again did not produce any young.

Potato Creek also has four nesting pairs of ospreys again this year, the highest concentration of any area in Indiana. Nesting osprey pairs are outnumbered by nesting eagles by a ratio of about 4-to-1 in Indiana.

Adult bald eagles can be distinguished from osprey by their white tail and white head. Ospreys have a brown stripe through their eye and a dark tail.

Visitors are encouraged to view the bald eagles and all wildlife from a distance.

Photos, courtesy of Mike Bourdon of South Bend, are available for publication by emailing interpretive naturalist Tim Cordell at tcordell@dnr.IN.gov.

Potato Creek State Park (stateparks.IN.gov/2972.htm) is located at 25601 State Road 4, North Liberty, 46554.

Media contact: Tim Cordell, interpretive naturalist, Potato Creek State Park, (574) 656-8186, tcordell@dnr.IN.gov.

DNR News

Division of Fish & Wildlife

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

For immediate release: June 12-15, 2015

DNR confirms presence of wandering black bear in St. Joseph and LaPorte counties

On June 12, Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologists confirmed the presence of a wild black bear in northern Indiana after the bear walked across the border from Michigan.

The DNR received reliable reports earlier in the week of the wandering bear northwest of South Bend in St. Joseph County and made the confirmation after wildlife biologist Budd Veverka examined waste material submitted to the DNR and identified it as bear scat.

“With black bears in some surrounding states, we were expecting a bear to show up eventually,” said Mitch Marcus, Wildlife Section chief for the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife. “It’s quite unusual and exciting for a Michigan lakeshore black bear to move this far south. Michigan DNR officials told us this is the southernmost black bear movement in more than a decade.”

Although there have been occasional unconfirmed reports of bears in Indiana, this is the first verified presence of a bear in the state in more than 140 years.

Wildlife biologists with the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife also say the Michigan black bear has turned west based on evidence collected over the weekend and reported sightings on June 15 near Michigan City.

“Definitely a bear track,” DNR wildlife biologist Budd Veverka said after examining photographs of paw prints found near Springville, a small community just north of the Indiana toll road in LaPorte County. “No doubt. And it continues to follow the predicted path based on the terrain.”

The black bear, a young male, first entered Indiana in St. Joseph County last week after its movements were tracked from near Muskegon by Michigan DNR officials. A scat pile it left in a resident’s driveway just north of South Bend was the evidence DNR needed to confirm the presence of a wild bear in Indiana for the first time since 1871.

Young black bears are known to disperse in the springtime as they seek new territory in which to settle. “Indiana does not have a breeding population of black bears, and we expect this one to turn back north



Black bears, like this individual photographed recently in Wisconsin, were common throughout the state of Indiana prior to 1800. Photo by Tom Berg.

eventually,” Marcus said.

Indiana DNR encourages citizens to report sightings of the bear to dfwinput@dnr.IN.gov or by calling (812) 334-1137 during regular business hours. Photos or videos can be sent to the same email address. The maximum file size is 15 MB.

Black bears are shy by nature and tend to avoid human contact. Attacks are rare. Black bears are non-aggressive in most instances and prefer fleeing from humans when given the chance.

DNR wildlife biologists offer the following bear awareness tips:

- Don't intentionally feed bears. If a bear becomes accustomed to finding food near your home, it may become a "problem" bear.
- Eliminate food attractants by placing garbage cans inside a garage or shed.
- Clean and store grills away after use.
- Don't leave pet food outside overnight
- Remove bird feeders and bird food from late March through November
- Don't add meat or sweets to a compost pile
- If encountering a bear, don't run. Shout, wave your arms and back away slowly.

As European settlers began arriving in the 1700s in what is now Indiana, black bears were found throughout the territory. Loss of habitat and demand for furs of all sorts led to the bears' demise. Shipment records of Vincennes fur trader Francis Vigo from 1777-87 include 2,669 bear hides. The Ewing family, which operated out of Fort Wayne and Logansport in the early 1800s, shipped 2,623 bear hides from 1836-41.

According to the book "Mammals of Indiana" by John O. Whitaker, Jr., and Russell E. Mumford, the last confirmed report of a resident wild black bear in Indiana was in 1850. Whitaker and Mumford report a bear sighting in northwest Indiana in 1871 but note it was forced south from Michigan to escape a series of fires known historically as the Great Michigan Fire.

Black bears are now listed as an exotic mammal and protected under Indiana Administrative Code 312 9-3-18.5 (b-1), which prohibits the killing of a black bear except by a resident landowner or tenant while the animal is "destroying or causing substantial damage to property owned or leased by the landowner or tenant."



Black bears are attracted to easy food sources, so be sure to store pet food and pet dishes indoors. Garbage cans should also be stored inside the garage during the week and (ideally) brought out on the morning of garbage pickup. Photo by Tom Berg.

Michigan DNR estimates a population of 15,000 to 19,000 black bears in the state, with 90 percent of them living in the Upper Peninsula. Black bears also have re-colonized in the eastern portions of Kentucky and Ohio.

Media contacts:

Phil Bloom, DNR Communications, (317) 232-4003.

Budd Veverka, DNR Fish & Wildlife, (812) 334-1137.

Crazy About Bluebirds

by Gene Clifford

The bluebird is one of our most beautiful and beloved birds. David Thoreau once said that the bluebird “carries the color of the sky on its back” and its song is sometimes described as a melodious “cheer, cheer, cheerful, charmer”, which aptly describes it.



There are three species of bluebirds, corresponding to the region in which they are found: eastern, Mountain and western. The range of the eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) extends throughout eastern North America and Canada, as far west as Saskatchewan and the Great Plains states, and south to eastern New Mexico. The mountain bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) nests in the foothills and mountains of western North America from east-central Alaska east to southwestern Manitoba and the Dakotas, down to southern California, northern Arizona, and southern New Mexico. It sometimes winters as far south as Mexico or sometimes as far north as British Columbia. It is the most migratory of all the bluebird species. The western bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*) nests in western North America from southern British

Columbia, east to the Rockies, and south to southern California and western Texas, and then on to south-central Mexico. It is the least migratory bluebird. It winters at lower elevations, where it is commonly found in desert area mesquite groves.

Since we only have eastern bluebirds here in Indiana, I will concentrate on them.

From the 1920's to the present, bluebird enthusiasts have worked to preserve this beautiful bird. The design of proper bluebird housing was perfected to ensure the birds were protected from parasites and predators. The concept of a bluebird trail was introduced in the 1920's which consisted of a series of nest boxes placed at intervals along local roads and farms. This program eventually evolved into the National Bluebird Trail (NBT). I have built many bluebird nest boxes; in fact, the 44 bluebird boxes that I built and maintain are registered with the NBT.

Bluebirds are members of the thrush family. They are cavity nesters, so placing a nest box in an open area is sure to attract them. Parks, cemeteries and golf courses are just a few of the places where bluebird nest boxes could be successful. So how can you attract these beauties and also participate in their conservation? Read on to find out!

If you have open ground around your house, try putting up a few nest boxes. That is the first step. The box should be mounted on a pole, at eye level for the person who is going to monitor it. The box should also be facing to the east or south so as to face away from the cold spring rains and late snows, as the bluebirds start nesting in late March or early April. Some kind of predator guard should be used around the pole, up to within a foot of the box. The guard can be PVC pipe, aluminum or galvanized duct. If you are placing more than one box, be sure they are at least 300 feet apart as bluebirds are very territorial.

The entrance hole should be 1½ inches in diameter for eastern bluebirds. This small entrance hole discourages starlings from trying to enter and build nests, but it does not stop the common English sparrow from entering and competing with the bluebirds for the nest site.

The Bluebird nest will be made of nothing but dried grass or pine needles, in the shape of a small bowl, whereas sparrows will fill the box with all kinds of grass, feathers, cigarette butts, plastic string etc., and fill the whole box full. Remove sparrow nests as they are being made so the box will be available for the bluebirds. Checking on the nest-building progress and egg-laying will not spook the bluebirds. Once the young have hatched, 10 days later they will be leaving, so give them peace and quiet so as to not scare them into leaving the nest box before they are ready to fledge.



Here is one of the bluebird nest boxes built and maintained by Gene Clifford. See the next page for plans to build your own nest boxes. Photo by Gene Clifford.

My oldest brother, Paul, lives on only one acre backed up to a woodlot, but he has been fortunate enough to have bluebirds nesting in his one house. He feeds them beemoth larva he buys from the country bait shop. You can attract bluebirds with suet, mealworms, or beemoth larva.

Although eastern bluebirds are making a nice comeback, there was a time when their numbers were seriously low – almost to the point of extinction. I do remember a period from 1971 to 1989, where I did not see a single bluebird in the summer months of those years. It may have been around 1989 that my friend and fellow Porter County Conservation Club member Ken Jankowski talked me into starting a Bluebird Trail. My trail now covers 18 miles along Indiana Highway 2 and along US 30 east and west of Valparaiso, and has 44 nest boxes on it.

Just this past week, when I was monitoring my boxes for the third time this year, as I do every 10 to 14 days, I had 12 bluebird nests in my boxes and five of them had their full complement of five eggs each. It looks like a banner year for bluebirds so far.

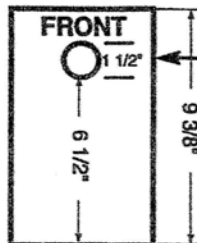
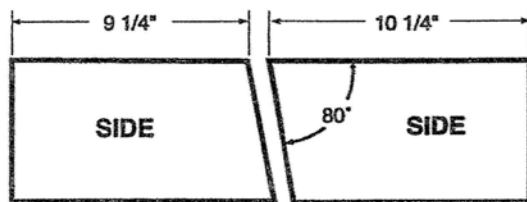
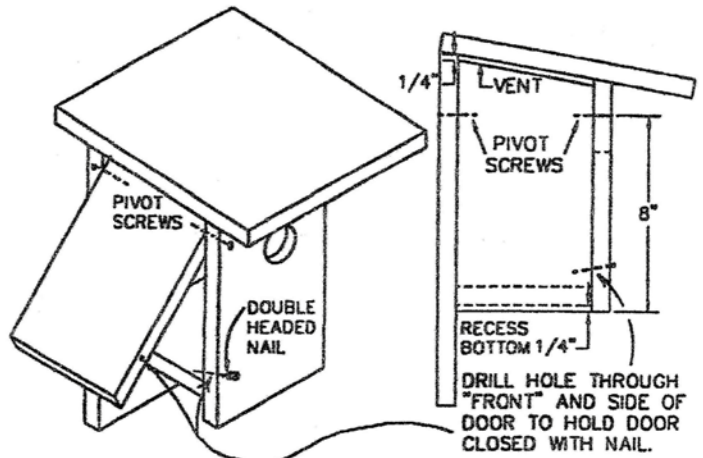
In 1978, the North American Bluebird Society (www.nabluebirdsociety.org) was established and continues to be a source of information and research for the preservation of these beautiful birds.

Editor's note: Gene Clifford has been an Active HOW Member since 2004. He writes many different articles about the natural world, but one of his passions is birds. Gene has maintained a Bluebird Trail of between 44 and 48 bluebird nest boxes for more than 20 years, and his nest boxes have literally fledged thousands of bluebirds over the years. He often fledges more than 100 bluebirds per year from the nest boxes he monitors and maintains near Valparaiso, Indiana.

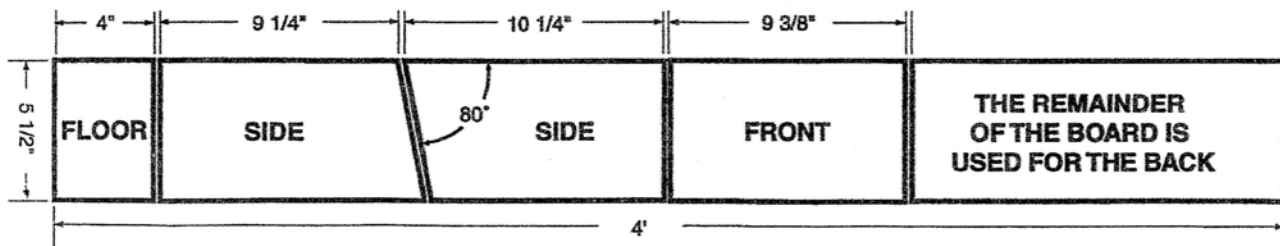
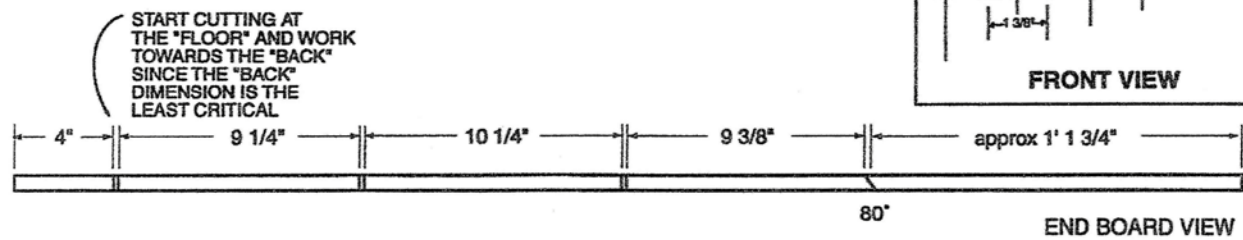
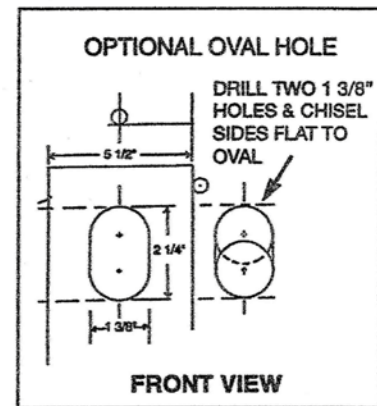
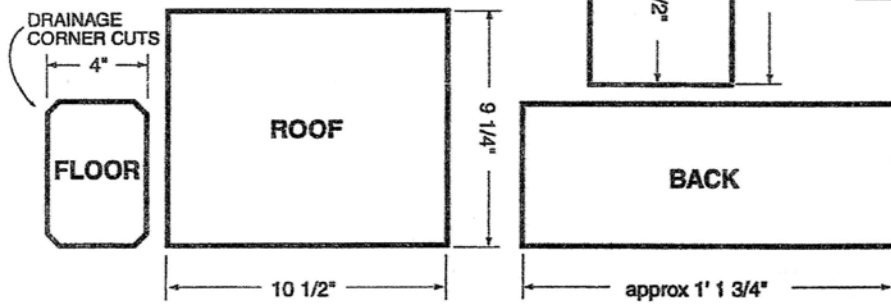


The North American Bluebird Society Eastern/Western Bluebird Nest Box

- MATERIALS LIST**
- STANDARD BOARD 1" x 6" - 4 FEET LONG
 - STANDARD BOARD 1" x 10" - 10 1/2" LONG
 - 1 3/4" GALVANIZED NAILS OR SCREWS - APPROX. 20
 - 1 3/4" GALVANIZED SCREW FOR PIVOT POINT - 2
 - DOUBLE HEADED NAIL FOR HOLDING DOOR CLOSED - 1



SPECIAL NOTE: A 1 9/16" HOLE SHOULD BE USED WHERE THE RANGES FOR EASTERN OR WESTERN BLUEBIRDS OVERLAP WITH THE MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDS.



For membership information, send a note and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: North American Bluebird Society, P.O. Box 74, Darlington, WI 53530-0074. For bluebirding information, visit the NABS website at <<http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/>>

Cottonwood Roots and Hopi Artwork

by Alan Garbers

If there's one event that I get excited about, it's the Eiteljorg Indian Arts Market that occurs on June 27th and 28th. Located next door to the Eiteljorg Museum (www.eiteljorg.org) in Indianapolis, it is the largest Indian arts show east of the Rockies. It is so respected that it brings artists and collectors from all over the country.

Now, I know *The Blade* is supposed to be about *outdoor* activities, so let me make the connection.

- The Indian Arts Market and festival *is* outdoors, most of it under huge tents.
- Western art, of which the Eiteljorg is famous for, is all about the outdoors. Western art is famous for capturing events like exploring, camping, trail riding, hunting, etc.
- One of my outdoor activities that involves hiking is getting ready for the event every year, in a way that I need to explain.



Once I had enough roots to do some trading, we would head out to one of the numerous Indian art shows in Prescott, Flagstaff, Phoenix, or even up to the Hopi Mesas. I was one of the few Anglos that hunted “root”. Often, I would find a carver that was willing to trade a Katsina doll for roots.

Oh the tales I could tell in my adventures of trying to find roots, and how I would love to go back to the remote locations where I

Let me first preface this with the fact that I love Indian artwork. I have an extensive collection of Navajo rugs, pottery, and Hopi Katsina dolls. When we were younger, times were tougher, and my lust for artwork exceeded my income. One of the ways I added to my collection was through barter.

You see, Hopi Katsinas can only be carved out of one material, and that's cottonwood root. Hopi believe that the roots of the cottonwood tree draw power from the earth. But, Hopi carvers often outnumber the amount of roots available, which is easy to understand in arid Arizona.

Good carvers are constantly looking for a source of quality cottonwood roots. Being the poor but resourceful guy I was, I started hiking the canyons of central Arizona with a freighter pack frame and a bow saw. If I found an old cottonwood root sticking out of a riverbed, it went in the pack frame.



Garbers' Dakota pickup truck loaded with a hoard of freshly-cut cottonwood roots from a construction site. These sites can be a real gold mine for exposed roots! All photos in this article by Alan Garbers.

looked in the past. One thing I learned: always carry a shovel and a roll of chain-link fence, just in case I got stuck in a dry riverbed. What fond memories of going to shows to trade. It was like Christmas in every way because I never knew what I would find under the (cottonwood) tree, or at the show.

In 1994 we moved to Indiana and my trading days were over, but my root collecting wasn't. Old habits die hard and if I was fishing along a river and I saw a prime root drying in the sun, it went home with me.

As time went by, I heard of the Eiteljorge Indian Arts Market, but I hated the idea of going because I had locked away my lust for Indian artwork, and didn't want to be reminded of past adventures.



But, in 2011 I grudgingly gathered my small collection of roots and took them to the show. Yes, I got funny looks hauling a bunch of "firewood" around, but I did find a carver that was willing to trade. Going home, I started actively looking for roots for the next show. In 2012, I hauled another batch of roots to the show and traded for another Katsina doll. Game On!

Yes, I can afford the occasional Katsina doll these days (they run from around \$100 to into the tens of thousands). But I want that connection to history; my history and the Hopi's. Anyone can buy a Katsina. How many can say they hunted the roots and traded for one?

I could go on for story after story, but I won't. I do want you to consider going to the show to see the dances, eat the food, and shop the artwork. The price of admission covers the museum as well, so take advantage of it. The Eiteljorge is



filled with rare original western artwork one normally only sees in books, including works from the 1800s from greats like Fredrick Remington and Charles Russell.

Trust me when I say, there is something to inspire everyone.

Editor's note: Alan Garbers is the current President of HOW and has been an Active HOW Member since 2007. He is an avid fisherman and hunter, and he loves everything connected to the American west and southwest. He especially appreciates southwestern Indian art and tries to add to his collection whenever he gets the chance.

HOW Member News



HOW member Vikki Trout (L) with friend Tim Hilsmeier (R). Both hunters took dandy longbeards on opening day. Photo courtesy of Vikki Trout.

HOW Turkey Hunters Have Another Successful Season

HOW members were very busy this spring in the turkey hunting woods, scouting and calling to birds from one end of the state to the other. Once opening day arrived, they tried their best to sneak up on a wily old tom turkey. Here are a few of their success stories:

Vikki Trout (Holland, IN):

“This was my first hunt since my precious husband/favorite huntin’ buddy passed away. John and I always turkey hunted side-by-side and it was very hard to head out to the turkey woods alone. Although I never dreamed I would get a turkey, I felt that being out there would help somehow with the grief I battle daily.”

“I harvested a turkey that sported a 10 5/8” beard, 26mm spurs and weighed 21 pounds. I took this bird opening day at 7:00 in the evening. That was another first for me, as I have never killed a turkey in the afternoon until now. I will always be grateful to John for teaching me all about God’s magnificent creation.”

“I fought to master the diaphragm call, but thanks to Carl Drake (Hunter Specialties pro staffer) who graciously offered assistance to me while attending the HOW Conference this year, I was speaking fluent hen by opening day.”

John Martino (Kokomo, IN):

“I started turkey hunting in 1985. I would travel to southern Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Florida. The thought of hunting wild turkeys in my home county was not even a consideration, because there weren’t any. Then in 1996 I was invited by the DNR to join them when they reintroduced birds in Howard County. I told Tom Hewitt, the wildlife biologist, that I’d hoped to at least see birds on my own property before I die. He said he hoped I was not only seeing them but hunting them within five or six years.

Six years after their reintroduction, the DNR opened turkey hunting season in Howard County. I thought it was too early and still traveled to southern Indiana to collect my bird. Several years later I decided to hunt my home county. I did succeed in calling in a small gobbler but could not shoot it, still feeling there weren’t enough birds. Since then I have taken many birds in Howard County. For me, turkey hunting has a unique interest and has come full circle from helping with their original reintroduction in my home county to actually hunting them. Now I don’t have to drive far to hunt turkeys.”

“On a side note, I recently ran a story about the reintroduction of turkeys in Howard County that describes the entire ordeal. Ironically, the same day the story came out is also the same day I collected this year’s bird.”

Photo at right: John Martino (left) and his grandson Brecken.



Alan Garbers (Martinsville, IN):

“After trudging up and down hills in Brown County and sitting in poison ivy in Monroe County, this bearded hen made the mistake of walking into our back yard. I had just been up in the woods trying to call a tom in, but the rain and wind pushed me back into the house. This is one advantage of living out in the country. It had an 8.5 inch beard.”

“My advice to prospective turkey hunters: Don’t try it! It just leads to countless hours of fruitless pursuit and frustration. Let’s not even mention the hundreds of dollars of ‘must have’ gear. Plus, you’ll need to hunt with an experienced caller or need to learn the countless calls and when (or when not) to use them. I have spent about \$100 on diaphragm calls since 2010, trying to find one that I can make work. I just threw another one away after trying to modify it to make something other than the ‘dying chicken that smoked two-packs of Lucky Strikes a day’ sound.”

All kidding aside, congrats on bagging your turkey this year, Alan!



Rick Bramwell (Pendleton, IN):

“Admittedly, I am not a great wild turkey hunter. That is why I hunt with Ray Novak, someone who is. He usually takes a limit of three gobblers in Tennessee and one in Indiana. Novak’s ultimate goal while hunting the Hoosier state is to get his old all-star Babe Ruth coach a bird.”

“Opening morning found us in an Owen County woods a half-hour before sunrise, talking to a tom turkey that was still on the roost. Ray would make sweet purr and cluck noises on his slate call, and the male bird would gobble back. Things were going well until a real hen, probably in the same tree, joined the conversation. They flew down and she led her boyfriend away from the competition.”

“It is exciting to be that close, and then disappointing to realize your grand plan has failed. In the area we hunt, turkeys are not very vocal. Ray thinks it is because there are so many coyotes. ‘Sometimes, it is better not to call at all,’ he recommended.”



“The eastern wild turkey likes to strut, feed and look for mates from open fields. Ray prefers to hunt a long narrow field between two woods that sit on a sloping hillside. Towards the bottom of the hill is a ditch. He can sit in the ditch quite comfortably, and all you can see is his camo hat. Ray has killed two turkeys and a coyote from this ditch, all in the middle of the day.”

“Novak put a hen decoy in the field and we sat the ditch until a little after noon, but the knowledge that one of the best buffets in the area was a 15-minute drive away was enough to make us break for lunch. A lot of turkey hunters had the same idea and we all converged at Chambers in Spencer.”

“We tried a new location after lunch. A place where three cuts drain into a ravine leading to a creek bottom is where we have seen several turkeys in the past, but we never connected. With our backs to a big oak and two small beech trees in front, we had the perfect set-up to watch and call.”

“Pretty quickly, Ray called a hen to within four yards of our position, but she had no suitor. He was itching to get back to the ditch, and I, with a belly full of fried chicken, was ready to take a nap.”

“About two hours into my dozing, I heard leaves rustling. Through squinting eyes, I saw a big tom scratching the forest floor for food. He turned his back and dropped his head to pick up an acorn. I raised my shotgun and pulled the trigger; the hunt was over. The gobbler weighed 21 pounds with 7/8-inch spurs and a 10-inch beard.”

“Sometimes a guy who is not a real dedicated turkey hunter can use an old deer hunting tactic to find success.”

Jarrett Manek Family (DePauw, IN):

“Here are two stories written by future outdoor writers. They are my children and they were both successful during this year’s turkey season. They spent the afternoon after the hunt working together to write their stories. Very little editing was done. This was Abby’s (age 9) first bird and Wyatt’s (age 10) fourth bird. You could say that I was more than just a proud dad!”

Editor’s note: The stories below were also not edited by me (other than formatting). I thought both young hunters/journalists did an excellent job!

DOUBLE TROUBLE

by Wyatt Manek, age 10 (4-18-15)



It was about 6:15 when we left the house for a morning turkey hunt. It was just right in front of our house where we were turkey hunting. It was a big field with corn and a little grass in the field. When I stepped in the field I could smell the morning dew of the grass. My sister, my dad and I knew we were running a little late. When we got to a spot that we felt pretty confident we set up the blind.

We herd turkeys left, right, behind, and in front of us. My sister decided to tag along with my mom’s 20 gauge. As she took a 20 gauge, I took a single shot 12 gauge with me. We unpacked the turkey decoy bag. We set up a jack and two hens in front of our blind. My dad started working the calls while my sister and I hung tight in the blind. My sister, dad, and I heard some turkeys gobble about 150 yards or more on a hill by the opening of the field.

As he was calling, two hens popped out in front of us. Then there was another hen that flew down beside us on the right of our blind. We waited patiently. Just when the hens were coming closer, two big logging trucks came right past the field with smoke gushing out the smoke stacks. Those logging trucks sure spooked every living thing out of the field. Those turkeys ran for the hills as fast as they could. The other turkey ran all the way across the field up on the side of the field and went down the other side of the field.

My dad whispered, for 7:30 that’s pretty good that we saw three hens. My dad started working the mouth call pretty loud. Just when he quit we heard two loud gobbles by the house that lives down the road from our house. When my dad put the call in his mouth there they were. Two big strutting gobblers came out across the road. Then three more gobblers popped out of the thicket just left of the other turkeys. I mean man they were taking all the time in the world to cross the road. You could see the gleam of the feathers. Man that was pretty.

Finally the turkeys crossed the road, in hopes of one or two turkeys to come our way. Three turkeys were locked in tight to our decoys. When they crossed the ditch, Abby, my sister was having a little bit of a hard time hanging on to the gun because she was shaking a little bit.

When the turkeys started to come closer in gun range I pulled back my trigger and my sister took her safety off. My dad said Wyatt you get the turkey on the left and Abby you get the turkey on the right. One, two, three, shoot. “BANG, BANG”. I shot and then my sister shot. The turkeys fell to the ground. We shouted in joy, we were so happy.

We got out of the blind to go see where we hit the birds. Abby drilled hers in the back of the bird and I shot mine straight in the head. It was like a fire cracker. Abby’s turkey had feathers everywhere on the ground. My dad was so excited he was shaking. I never in the world had seen my sister so happy in her whole life.

(continued next page)

My dad was taking a couple of pictures, but when the photographer came to take pictures all the way from Indianapolis, he went picture crazy. Why he was there, he was doing an outdoor story for women. As so my sister had to do even more pictures. We finally got done and were exhausted. We walked home with the biggest smiles on our faces and turkeys in hand!

DOUBLE TROUBLE FOR TURKEYS

by Abigail Manek, age 9 (4-18-15)

I wake up at 6:15am. I was super tired, but I got up as fast as I could because today was my big day. I was turkey hunting for my first time, and I was super excited, so I get my hunting clothes on. Then we pack snacks and head out to the field.

It's about dawn when my brother Wyatt and my dad had got to our spot. We had not set up our blind yet and we already heard turkeys, so we needed to hurry up. As soon as our blind was up and we were all situated one hen came flying in. When it landed my dad said it looked like an angel except in turkey mode. Then two more hens flew in. There were still no toms yet.

After about ten minutes a couple more hens flew in. I'd shoot them if they were bearded hens, but none of them were. They also were not even close to us. Then some log trucks came and scared all the turkeys away. After the log trucks went by my brother said he saw a tom crossing the road and heading towards us, but then it went in the weeds. Then luck came. Two more toms started to come in. They start coming towards us. I'm hoping that they don't go in the weeds like the other one.

To my surprise they went straight to us. Then I placed my 20 gauge on the rest. I was shaking so badly! Next my dad said we were going to shoot and to get ready. My dad counted to three. "BOOM! BOOM!". My brother and I shot at the same time, and we got two turkeys at the same time. I couldn't believe we did it. My dad said we got a double. It means you get two turkeys at the same time. My dad has had a lot of hunting experience, but he's never seen anybody get a double. He was amazed! We were all jumping for joy.

Once we got our turkeys back to our house a photographer came and took a lot of pictures, more pictures than my dad took. It was a lot of pictures and mostly pictures of me because he was doing a story about women and the outdoors.



Wyatt and Abigail Manek work on writing down all the details of their unforgettable 2015 turkey hunt. Photos courtesy of Jarrett Manek.

After the photographer left we went to check our turkeys in. My turkey was the dominant one, so it was bigger. It was strutting all puffed out in front of us before I shot him dead. It was 24lbs, the spurs 21mm, and the beard was 11". That's a pretty big bird. Wyatt's bird was 19lbs, its spurs 20mm, and its beard was 10 and a quarter inches. Finally when we got home from checking the birds in, we started skinning and gutting them. We prepared the meat to eat fresh. My dad has the best recipe for fixing wild turkey. It is delicious! It has wrapped bacon on it!

I told my dad this was the best day of my life and that I can't wait until deer season!

Bill Keaton (Arlington, IN):

“I have hunted wild turkeys every year since 1986. I have taken a turkey all but two of those years. One year I got greedy and let several jakes walk by, thinking I was going to kill the biggest tom in the woods. Another year, there was a visit from three of my grandsons (too young to take) with some ill-advised timing.”

“Over the last twenty-three years, I think I have missed two HOW meetings, both due to blizzards when meetings were in February. I always seem to learn something at each meeting, but this year was definite. As usual, there was an interesting and educational array of speakers and presentations at the HOW annual meeting held at Pokagon State Park. One of the speakers was Carl Drake who is a Pro Staff member of Hunter Specialties. Carl is a champion turkey caller.”

“I thought it would be hard to teach this ‘old dog’ any new turkey hunting tricks after nearly thirty years of hunting them. However, I had a thing or two to learn from Carl. Not only did Carl demonstrate various calls, he taught us when and how to use the various sounds a wild turkey makes. One of those new sounds made the difference for me this year.”

“On opening morning the weather was miserable. It was raining off and on with a steady 20 mph wind out of the north, gusting to 30 mph. I was in the woods twelve hours opening day and saw only two hens. I didn’t hear a single gobble. The second day was no better. I stuck it out for five hours, but didn’t even see a hen nor did I hear a single gobble.”

“On the third day of the season, I decided to go much deeper into the woods. I was up a half an hour earlier, and I was set up while it was still dark. Although it was very cold in the upper 30’s, at least the wind had laid; and the clouds were gone. At the first sign of morning light, a tom sounded off southwest of my position. Another



Bill Keaton displays the trophy-sized tom turkey that he harvested this year. Photo by Rita Keaton.

answered to the southeast followed by a third to the east. That was encouraging, but all three were very far away. I estimated that they were about ¼ mile from me. I picked up my old Lynch box call and scraped out a few yelps. There was no response. When all three sounded off again in turn, I picked up a mouth call, and sounded a fly-down cackle. Still, there was no response.”

“The three toms continued their periodic, but distant, gobbling. I knew that toms used the hilltop where I had set up for a strutting ground, so I decided not to try to move closer to one of the birds. Although they weren’t getting closer, at least they weren’t moving away. At about 7:15 a.m. the trio sounded off again. As before, I blasted out a few yelps on my Lynch which was the loudest call I own. This time, the gobbler to the east immediately responded with another gobble that sounded a little louder as though he had turned toward me.”

“In Carl Drake’s presentation, there was only one call that was new to me. It was the ‘excited hen’ call. Carl not only demonstrated it, he taught us when and how to use it. After the HOW meeting, I had practiced the ‘excited hen’ call every day on my way to work. At Carl’s suggestion, I had downloaded an app on my phone that had real turkeys calling. I played the call, and practiced imitating it nearly every day.”

“When the tom turned toward me, the time was right to use the ‘excited hen’ call. I sounded off with the excited

hen, and then as Carl had suggested, I was quiet. The tom was also quiet. Much to my delight, about fifteen minutes later I saw a tom's head stretch up at the end of the hill, seventy-five yards out. He just stood there looking at my decoy set for what seemed like an eternity. I got a little concerned that this old boy really knew the ropes, and would walk the other way. After a three or four minute standoff, I got really nervous, so I scratched out a few soft clucks on my slate call. WHAM! He broke into strut so fast you could almost feel it."

"For the next twenty minutes he never came out of strut. He was strutting back and forth and was ever so slowly inching his way closer to my hen decoys. When he was thirty yards out, I was wishing he would come out of strut so I could shoot. I had the red dot of my new Bushnell TRS-25 centered on his head. Still, he slowly strutted closer and closer. At twenty yards, I was getting concerned that he was getting too close for the tight choke of my turkey gun, but still he stayed in strut. At eighteen yards, I let out a loud whistle. Even after my 'horse' whistle, he stayed in strut. When he came another couple of yards, I had to do something to get him out of strut so I could shoot. With the red dot right on his head, I yelled at him as loudly as I could. He stuck his head straight out, and that was it."

"When I picked him up, I knew immediately that he was the heaviest bird I had ever shot. As he strutted toward me, I actually considered not shooting him. He was so striking with the sun shining through his fan, giving it an almost iridescent glow. He weighed 26 pounds. His spurs were 1 3/8 inches long, and his beard was 10 1/4 inches long. He was a beautiful bird, and the biggest tom I have ever taken. Kudos go to Carl Drake, Hunter Specialties, and Bushnell for providing this 'old dog' with some new tricks."

Teena Ligman (Bedford, IN):

"Our farm in southern Indiana seems to have a strain of turkeys with a genetic tendency for multiple beards. Over the past several years, at least three double-bearded and one triple-bearded toms have been harvested here. This year, a hunter shot a turkey with four distinct beards."

"Multiple beards may not make the turkeys taste better or be any more fun, but the trait certainly seems unique."



Brandon Butler (Fayette, MO):

"It's been said that travel is the greatest cure of ignorance. I have found this to be true. When my wife and I were married in 2004, Mexico was our dream honeymoon destination. At the time of our wedding, we were in the process of buying a house. My loving and generous grandparents made us an offer. Either they would send us to Mexico, or they would give us the equivalent cost of the trip in cash to use towards the down payment of our first



home. We took the money.”

“Having decided to wait five years before trying to add to our family, we thought we’d just go to Mexico the following winter. Three months later we were expecting. Bailee was born in June. Annabel followed 13 months later. We never made it to Mexico.”

“When Bill Cooper, one of Missouri’s most accomplished outdoor writers, asked if I’d be interested in joining him on a trip to the Yucatán

Peninsula to chase ocellated turkeys (*Meleagris ocellata*), I only had one question, ‘Can my wife come?’”

“On March 5, 2015, after nearly 11 years of waiting, Melissa and I were finally on our way to Mexico. We landed in Cancún late in the afternoon and immediately hopped in a passenger van headed to Mérida. From this point forward, my misconceptions of Mexico began rapidly deteriorating.”

“Many Americans have pre-conceived negative notions about Mexico based on media coverage that leads us to believe Mexico, outside of the Las Vegas style resort areas, is a very dangerous place. To the contrary, Mexico is a wonderful, beautiful and diverse land. Sure, there are areas to avoid. But most countries, including our own, have places you shouldn’t be. As we traveled the Peninsula, passing through small villages and walking city streets at night, I never once felt unsure of my wife’s safety or my own.”

“Mérida is the largest city in the Yucatán Peninsula. It is the capital of the state of Yucatán. In Mérida, we met up with Maya Amazing Adventures. Rueben Encalada, their public relations director, sure knows how to plan a trip to expose outdoor enthusiasts to the natural and manmade treasures of the Yucatán.”

“We spent the next two days touring Mayan archeological sites, swimming in cenotes, exploring coastal wildlife refuges, eating incredible food and enjoying outstanding company. Mayapan was my favorite site. It has over 4,000 structures around the Temple of Kukulcan. Cenotes are water-filled sinkholes. You’re basically swimming in a cave full of crystal clear water. We took a boat from the fishing village of Dzilam de Bravo to Parque Natural San Felipe. Pink flamingos were everywhere, providing incredible bird watching and photography opportunities. Fresh, line-caught fried grouper, a chilled octopus cocktail and a couple of cervezas served seaside was just one of the meals I won’t soon forget.”



“From Mérida, we traveled to Campeche where we spent time touring Fort of San Miguel until Roberto Sansores of Snook Inn Hunting and Fishing picked us up for the hour long ride to turkey camp. Roberto’s father, Jorge Sansores, is a legend of ocellated turkey hunting. He’s been outfitting on the Yucatán Peninsula for over 50

years. He prides himself on helping hunters achieve the World Slam, which is accomplished by shooting all six subspecies of wild turkey.”

“The turkey hunting takes place in agricultural fields surrounded by dense jungle. Jaguars roam these fields. Ocellated turkeys often come through in flocks. The first morning five gobblers came in front of me, and I ended my hunt before sunrise with a single shot. The beauty of the ocellated turkey is in its colors. A shimmering aqua and bronze body is highlighted by a tail fan with each feather hosting an eye of blue. I spent the second morning behind the lens of my camera. Over 100 turkeys in a single flock flew down in front of my blind. The next hour was mesmerizing.”

“Everything I ever dreamed about Mexico came true. It’s not a scary place. Mexico is an amazing country I will return to again and again.”

Jarrett Manek (DePauw, IN):

“I would think that this year’s turkey season could not have gotten any better after my two kids doubled up on two nice toms opening day of youth season! Especially since one of those was my daughter’s first bird. Opening day for the regular season really did not get me too fired up because having two turkeys in the freezer was enough. I was still living a dream with my kids’ double.”

“Then, after guiding a long-time friend from Mississippi on the morning of the opener, I was able to help him bag a nice tom. Photos, check-in and lunch always takes a while, so when all that had been accomplished, I found myself looking at an afternoon by myself. It had been a rare occasion where I was free to hunt alone so early in the season. Instead of taking the old single shot H&R turkey deluxe that I had used for nearly twenty five years, I decided to try something that I have been tempted to do over the last few years, but never followed through with; go traditional! I have been shooting a traditional long bow instinctively for at least ten years, taking several does, one buck, a few rabbits and a lot of misses. I have had good success over the years with the bow, but I have never taken turkey.”

“With the ground blind on my back and bow in hand, I set out to set up at the same spot where my kids had shot their birds. Instantly, I was able to get a bird to respond and strut behind me within 60 yards. But he was reluctant to close the distance and come around the corner to the decoys. Even when a hen ventured within range, he would not. Fortunately, from across the field I was able to get the attention of two jakes and another tom. Within thirty minutes they made their way to me and into the decoys. I said that I had my share of misses and I did with this one, too, but he was so in-tune to the decoys and the jakes around him that he did not notice the wooden arrow buzz past his back.”



“One of the friends that I hunt with always told me to shoot straight and hit my mark before we go hunting and on the second shot, I hit my mark. Shooting traditional always reminds me of how the Native Americans survived and hunted in the woodlands. Maybe next time I will try going without a modern blind – or maybe not!”

“I was shooting a 60 lb Elberg Long bow with handmade wooden cedar arrows and a two-blade wolverine broadhead. The bird weighed 24 pounds with a 10" beard and 23 mm spurs. My daughter still reminds me and her brother that she got the biggest bird and I would not have had it any other way!”

How Turkeys Changed My Life

by Mike Schoonveld

Many years ago, myself and two of my friends were the Three Amigos. We played together, hunted together, fished together and traveled to places to hunt and fish together. We even bought lifetime hunting and fishing licenses together.

Due to the “in” I had with the license-issuer-person at the DNR, my lifetime license number was issued as number 999, another of the “amigos” was 1000 and the last was 1001. All were unique license numbers.

I still remember the conversation between the other two as we were playing, fishing, hunting or otherwise amigo-ing. “Hey, we now have a ‘free turkey-tag,’ so why don’t we go turkey hunting?” At the time, only a small percentage of Indiana counties were open for turkey hunting; the northern most of which was Parke County.

Long story short, amigos number two and three skated on one of the best fishing weekends of the year and went turkey hunting in Parke County. Neither connected, but they heard a gobble or two and became infected.

The next year, come early April, the fish were biting. I mentioned we needed to get out early on Saturday. “Sorry, we are going turkey scouting!”

Holy cow! They only had one 40-acre parcel on which to hunt, and about half of it was crop land. How much scouting needed to be done?

In short, I became the One Amigo, in search of people to go fishing come April. “If I couldn’t go with friends, I might as well go with strangers and have them pay me for the privilege,” I thought.

So, I became a charter captain and vowed to never go for turkeys. It’s an addiction, like booze, tobacco, perhaps even like crack, smack or other drugs. It changes your life forever and not necessarily for the good.

Now, decades later, I’m still steadfast. I own property with turkeys trotting all over it. I’m proudly not a turkey hunter. Want to go turkey hunting? Come on down, or up, or over! Kill ‘em all. How many other friendships have these stinky, tick-laden, giant chickens broken?

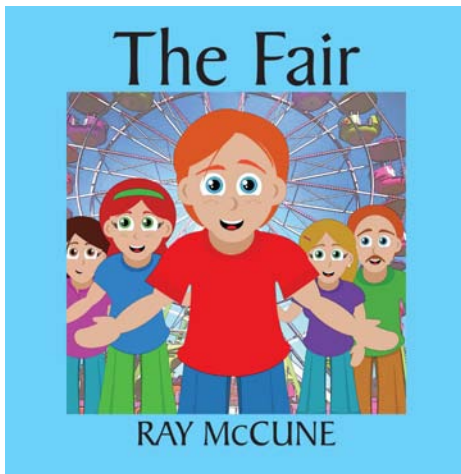
By the way, the Two Amigos both shot their Indiana bird this year in the first half hour of the season. Then the phone rang. “Hey, I got my turkey this morning! What’s going on this weekend? Want to go fishing?”

“Sorry, I’m booked up,” I said.

But I was polite enough to at least listen to each account of how they outsmarted a bird with a brain the size of a grape.....



Captain Mike Schoonveld with one of his charter customers. This youngster caught a fine lake trout during the middle of turkey season! Photo courtesy Mike Schoonveld.



Ray McCune Continues Book Releases With Two New Books

HOW member and book author Ray McCune has announced that his two newest books are now available at amazon.com. The first is a children's book, titled *The Fair*. It was released in April and in it, McCune reminisces about fond childhood memories of local county fairs.

McCune's other new book is the third in a series of humor books. His first book, *How To Eat A Wild Green Pancake* was published in 2003, republished in 2011, and then again in 2015. It has been followed-up by two books: *How To Tune A Nose Whistle* (#2 in the series) and the most recent addition:

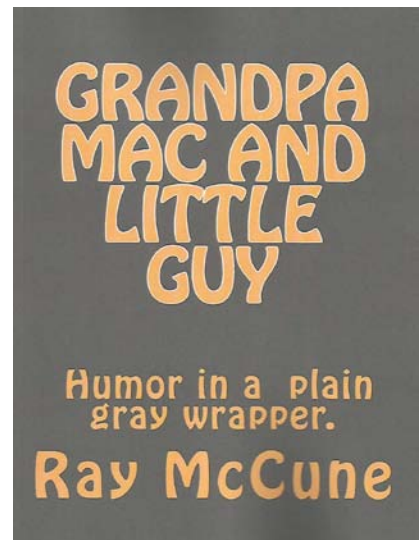
Grandpa Mac And Little Guy (#3 in the series).

That's not all, though. McCune recently reported that a fourth book in the series, *Growing Up In Peewata Falls* will be out in about a month. "All are just plain funny and are clean and enjoyable to read," said McCune. All of these books contain about 30 chapters and are approximately 48,000 words long. Most of the chapters were first published in *MidWest Outdoors* magazine in a column called *Humor Corner*.

Priced in the \$9-\$10 price range, McCune said: "They are very affordable. A copy of *How To Eat A Wild Green Pancake* is also available at the Allen County Public Library that can be checked out and read free of charge."

Ray McCune claims to be a West Virginia native and is best known for his *Kampfire Kookin'* columns published in *MidWest Outdoors* as well as some other publications.

Having been involved in Scouting for over 40 years, McCune has designated 10% of the money from all sales to help local boy scouts attend summer camp.



Membership Changes and New Contact Info

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

Virginia Anson: New address/phone: 210 Gallup Dr., Lafayette, IN 47905; phone: 785-614-0150.

Larry Crecelius: New email address: lcrecel@frontier.com

The following name represents our newest HOW member. Welcome to HOW, Scott! Please make a note of his email address:

Scott Weaver: casualpeddler@gmail.com (new member)

If your email address, phone number or other contact info changes, please notify HOW Executive Director Tom Berg at thomas.berg@comcast.net or by mail at 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311.

HOW Legal Counsel and Others Call Attention To “Waters of the US”

HOW Legal Counsel Bill Keaton sent in the following note just before this issue was published:

“Have you seen the signs along some of our highways that say, ‘Waters Of The United States’? I know longtime HOW member Jack Spaulding has seen them because I saw an article written by him on this subject. It represents another attempt by the Federal Government at a power grab through the rule-making power of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA by rule has claimed every creek, ditch, pond and waterway (whether it holds water year-round or only when it rains) as property of the United States Government.”

“The Indiana Attorney General and nine other states have filed a lawsuit to declare the new rule to be void. See the notice below. More outdoor writers should call attention to this potentially devastating power grab. Do you want to have to buy a federal license to fish, trap or hunt the ditch or creek near your house?”

Indiana Legal News – Latest Indiana Headlines, Top Stories, Breaking News – The Indian... Page 1 of 1



Indiana among 9 states contesting EPA water rule

IL Staff July 6, 2015

Indiana will join eight other states that have challenged an Environmental Protection Agency rule redefining streams, creeks, ponds and wetlands as waters of the United States.

Attorney General Greg Zoeller said in a statement Monday the rule EPA finalized on June 29 could harm Indiana's agricultural economy. The proposed final rule would apply to small non-navigable waters including ponds, drainage ditches and intermittent streams to occur only with heavy rain.

Zoeller said under the new rule, agricultural operations that discharge water or wastewater could be forced to obtain expensive federal permits or face civil penalties of up to \$37,500 per day for the potential water runoff.

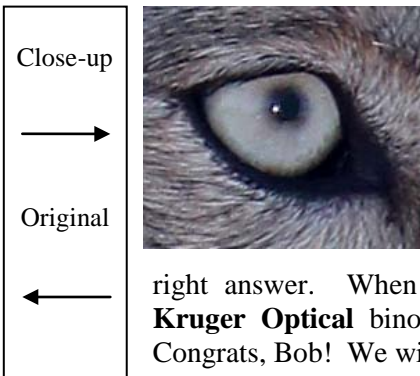
Indiana joins nine states that filed a legal challenge in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia, alleging the “Waters of the United States” or WOTUS Rule exceeds Congress's Commerce Clause authority and violates the Tenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Zoeller said the rule encroaches on state authority to regulate small waters within its borders. “While we are mindful of environmental concerns, this type of EPA overreach and intrusion into state sovereignty has become all too frequent, and the states have no choice but to seek redress in the federal court,” Zoeller said in a statement. Last week, the United States Supreme Court ruled in the *Michigan v. EPA* case that the agency exceeded its authority by drafting new pollution-control regulations under the Clean Air Act without considering costs.

Unusual Nature Photos From The Hoosier Outdoors

Sponsored by Costa Del Mar

The Highly Adaptable Coyote Lives Throughout Indiana



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was a little easier than the previous one, and nine (9) HOW members correctly identified it. Mike Schoonveld, Bill Keaton, Ken McBroom, John Maxwell, PJ Perea, Troy McCormick, Bob Sawtelle, Phil Seng and Rich Creason each had the

right answer. When we drew a name at random for the **Kruger Optical** binoculars, Bob Sawtelle was the winner. Congrats, Bob! We will send the binoculars to you ASAP.

As you can see in the photo (at left), the mystery creature for this issue was a coyote (*Canis Latrans*). Coyotes have become a common sight throughout the state in recent years, and not just in rural farmlands. Coyotes can be found everywhere, even within most of our busiest cities and towns. Their howls are often heard in the early evening and at night.

Coyotes are closely related to wolves, but are much smaller. They weigh 20-40 pounds on average, and the males are slightly larger than the females. In Indiana, coyote fur is a dappled mixture of light gray, tan, brown and sometimes red. They blend in with their surroundings extremely well, which helps when hunting for rodents, birds and other small game.

The diet of Hoosier coyotes includes mice, rabbits, birds, crayfish, frogs, snakes, deer and a wide variety of insects. Coyotes are well-known scavengers, and will gladly eat carrion of all sorts. They also eat fruits and berries when available and will eat grass and seeds if other food is scarce. Garbage, pet food and even pets can also be on the menu.

For this issue, our friends at **Costa Del Mar** and **Full Circle PR** will be donating a great prize (valued up to \$250) for the HOW member that guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be a gift certificate for a pair of Costa sunglasses of the winner’s choice from the Costa Del Mar website. See below for more info.

Berg Poses A Difficult Nature Photo “What Is It?” Question

Here’s another Nature Photo mystery, and this one might be more difficult than usual. The photo shown at right is a close-up of part of a common creature that lives right here in Indiana. Depending on where you live, you may (or may not) see it in your back yard. It is found throughout much of the state, but is absent in some areas. Have you ever seen this creature before?



This Hoosier creature may be pretty tricky for some to identify, but we’ll see. Do you know of any Hoosier creatures that look like this? This time you must identify the exact species. If you think it’s a particular species of sparrow, for example, go ahead and guess “Chipping Sparrow”. Of course, it’s not a sparrow, but if you think you know what it is, send the answer via email to thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you’re right, you will be eligible for this issue’s prize.

As mentioned above, Costa Del Mar will be donating a gift certificate for a pair of Costa sunglasses as a prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. You will be able to choose from any of their top-of-the-line sunglasses, including customizing the frame and lens colors. If multiple people guess the right answer, we will draw one winner at random from the group of correct entries. Good luck and have fun! All nature photos on this page by Tom Berg.



HOW Supporting Member News

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



Bass Pro Shops Launches Major New Initiative To Introduce Kids To The Outdoors Through Fishing



Springfield, MO: Bass Pro Shops recently announced “Gone Fishing”, a major new program to introduce people of all ages, especially urban youth and children overly-focused on their digital devices, to fishing as a gateway to discovering the outdoors.

The national program encompasses a variety of significant initiatives designed to introduce audiences that haven’t been exposed to outdoor recreation, and inspire experienced anglers to pledge their support and join the fishing movement this summer. The sweeping activities include hosting in-store events, collaborating with Major League Baseball teams across the country, tapping into the star power of professional athletes and celebrities, partnering with local and national nonprofits and leveraging social media to raise awareness.

“Bass Pro Shops is committed to inspiring more young people to get to know and love the outdoors,” said Stan Lippelman, vice president of marketing for Bass Pro Shops. “In fact, 100,000 people caught a fish at a Bass Pro Shops last year alone, many for the first time. We hope to expand this by offering additional free, easy opportunities to introduce kids and teens to fishing. Once they catch their first fish, we know they’ll be hooked.”

In addition to creating the next generation of conservationists, fishing also offers a variety of personal benefits. “Fishing offers kids and kids-at-heart the opportunity to put down our devices and experience the outdoors together to bond with our families, connect with nature and get some exercise,” Lippelman said.

“Gone Fishing” offers opportunities for people of all ages and skill levels to get involved.

Attend free in-store events

Large catch-and-release ponds at participating stores will provide kids and families with the opportunity to catch their first fish, learn basic techniques or fine-tune their fishing skills. The free events aim to make fishing accessible through an easy and fun way to get started with how-to seminars, take-home handbooks, photo opportunity with downloads, certificates to commemorate that first catch, and in-store giveaways.

The free in-store programs introduce families to fishing during the two-weekend event, June 13-14 and June 20-21 from noon – 5 p.m., held at participating Bass Pro Shops stores across the U.S. and Canada.

Pledge to take someone fishing

Experienced anglers are encouraged to join the movement by pledging to take a friend or family member fishing this summer. Several celebrities already signed the pledge to take someone fishing in the next 90 days, including Kevin VanDam (Bassmaster Classic Champion), Willie Young (Chicago Bears defensive end), John Isner (#1 ranked American tennis player) and others.

For more information on Bass Pro Shops, visit www.basspro.com or call 1-800-BASS-PRO. HOW members may also contact Katie Mitchell at: kamitchell@basspro.com (417-873-5618) or Mary Mardis at: MDMardis@basspro.com (417-873-5059).

HOW Supporting Member News

Z-Man Fishing Products Adds TroutTrick Soft Plastics and Trout Eye Jigheads



Ladson, SC: Z-Man Fishing Products is pleased to announce the addition of TroutTrick® soft plastics and Trout Eye™ jigheads to its growing line of high-tech inshore bait offerings for the 2015 season. The company's recent acquisition of TroutTrick from founder Bob Sanders and partnership with Ralph Phillips Inshore Productions to distribute Trout Eye jigheads further Z-Man's efforts to offer the industry's most effective and comprehensive inshore saltwater product line. While designed specifically for targeting spotted seatrout, both products have proven to be successful on a wide variety of species including largemouth bass and other freshwater fish.

"Pairing the deadliest soft plastic trout lure I've seen—now constructed from 10X Tough ElaZtech®—with a perfectly matched jighead creates a complete system that is simply unmatched its ability to catch fish when other baits and presentations are ineffective," comments Daniel Nussbaum, Z-Man General Manager and Executive Vice President. "Both products have unique features that set them apart from other inshore artificials and, paired together, will absolutely help anglers catch more trophy seatrout."

The TroutTrick is the brainchild of former FLW touring pro turned inshore guide, Bob Sanders. "After throwing everything in the tackle box at a school of surface-feeding trout, I tied on my TroutTrick and had a field day. I knew I was on to something," remarks Sanders. "The lure worked from the Florida Panhandle to South Carolina's estuaries and quickly caught on in the guide world, becoming a go-to lure for coastal fisherman in only a few short years. I knew we needed to take this lure to the fishing world in a big way, and Z-Man was the perfect company to partner with. With the addition of their proprietary ElaZtech technology and greater array of colors to choose from, the TroutTrick should have them jumping in the boat for this irresistible—and indestructible—offering!"

In the last four years since its inception, the TroutTrick has proven time and again to be a profile that outfishes other baits in a variety of situations, from cold-weather conditions when trout are typically dormant, to the heat of summer when waters are heavily stained and most anglers resort to live bait. Many veteran anglers feel that the TroutTrick's slender profile and unique vibrations emitted by its ribbed body trigger reaction bites when other artificials fail to produce.

"The TroutTrick is an amazing bait, and our ElaZtech material makes it even more durable and gives it improved action," adds Nussbaum. "I fished the ElaZtech versions paired with the Trout Eye jigheads religiously last fall and winter, and the combination consistently caught more and bigger trout than anything else I used. Bob did a great job introducing South Carolina to a lure and a technique that flat-out works, and we're excited to continue what he started and help spread the TroutTrick to other saltwater markets."



Rounding out the TroutTrick system, the Trout Eye jighead produces the ideal sink rate that optimizes the bait's ability to produce reaction strikes. Created by South Carolina inshore fishing guru, Ralph Phillips, the Trout Eye jighead features an oversized eye, superb balance, high-quality 2/0 Mustad hook, and needle-sharp keeper barbs that make rigging with ElaZtech easy and grip all types of soft plastics securely. The real difference with the jighead lays in its oversized 3D eyeballs that create a prominent strike target that gamefish can home in on.

"In 40 years of fishing for blue marlin and seatrout to everything in between, I have learned that predators strike the eye," remarks Phillips. "Our Trout Eye jigheads are designed to have the biggest eye possible for a jig this size, and they just simply produce."

For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Jeff Espy with Adventure Advertising, LLC at (678) 730-4770, or by e-mail at Jeff@adventureadv.com.

HOW's Supporting Member Websites

A&C Air Pellets - www.air-pellets.com
Alpen Optics - www.alpenoutdoor.com
Aquateko International - www.aquateko.com
Arctic Ice - www.arctic-ice.net
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Barnes Bullets - www.barnesbullets.com
Bass Assassin Lures - www.bassassassin.com
Bass Pro Shops - www.basspro.com
Battenfeld Technologies - www.battenfeldtechnologies.com
Bear & Son Cutlery - www.bearandson.com
Better Bank Anglers - www.betterbankanglers.com
Birchwood Casey - www.birchwoodcasey.com
Black River Tools - www.blackrivertools.com
Blackpowder Products, Inc. - www.cva.com
BoatUS - www.boatus.com
Brownells, Inc. - www.brownells.com
Bubba Blade Knives - www.bubbablade.com
Buck Knives - www.buckknives.com
Buckeye Shad Baits - www.buckeyeshad.com
Burford Books - www.burfordbooks.com
Bushnell - www.bushnell.com
Cabela's - www.cabelas.com
Camp Chef - www.campchef.com
Church Tackle Company - www.churchtackle.com
Clam Outdoors - www.clamoutdoors.com
Cocoons Eyewear - www.cocooneyewear.com
Cortland Line Co. - www.cortlandline.com
Costa Sunglasses - www.costadelmar.com
Cotton Carrier - www.cottoncarrier.com
Crappie Pro - www.crappiepro.com
Crosman Corporation - www.crosman.com
Cyclops Solutions - www.cyclopssolutions.com
Eagle Claw - www.eagleclaw.com
Environ-Metal, Inc. - www.hevishot.com
E/T Lights - www.triangelights.com
Federal Premium Ammunition - www.federalpremium.com
Field & Stream Outdoor Life Deer & Turkey Expos - www.deerinfo.com
Filson Corporation - www.filson.com
Flying Fisherman - www.flyingfisherman.com
FOXPRO - www.gofoxpro.com
Frabill - www.frabill.com
Frogg Toggs - www.froggtoggs.com
G.Loomis - www.gloomis.com
Gamo USA - www.gamoussa.com
Gerber Legendary Blades - www.gerbergear.com
Gun Protect - www.mygunprotect.com
Hart Productions - www.hartproductions.com
Hawke Sport Optics - www.hawkeoptics.com
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - www.henryrepeating.com
HHA Sports - www.HHAsports.com
Hickory Glen Creations - www.g-p-a-s.com
High Roller Lures - www.highrollerlures.com
Hodgdon Powder Co. - www.hodgdon.com
Hoosier Trapper Supply - www.hoosiertrappersupply.com
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - www.hmhc.com
Howard Communications - www.howardcommunications.com
HT Enterprises - www.icefish.com
Hunter's Specialties - www.hunterspec.com
Indiana Office of Tourism Development - www.VisitIndiana.com
Indiana Outdoor News - www.IndianaOutdoorNews.net
InterMedia Outdoors - www.IMoutdoors.com
Irish Setter Boots - www.irishsetterboots.com
JB Lures - www.jblures.com
Johnson Outdoors, Inc. - www.johnsonoutdoors.com
Koppers Fishing & Tackle - www.livetargetlures.com
Kruger Optical - www.krugeroptical.com
LensPen - www.lenspen.com
Leupold - www.leupold.com
Lodge Manufacturing - www.lodgemfg.com
Lurecraft Industries - www.lurecraft.com
Mack's Lure - www.macks lure.com
Mathews - www.mathewsinc.com
Mercury Marine - www.mercurymarine.com
Mossy Oak - www.mossyoak.com
MyTopo - www.mytopo.com
National Muzzle Loading Rifle Assn - www.nmlra.org
National Shooting Sports Foundation - www.nssf.org
Nosler, Inc. - www.nosler.com
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - www.mossberg.com
Off Shore Tackle Co. - www.offshoretackle.com
Okuma Fishing Tackle - www.okumafishing.com
Otis Technology - www.otistec.com
Outdoor Promotions - www.crappieusa.com
Pelican Products - www.pelican.com
Plano Molding Company - www.planomolding.com
Princeton University Press - www.press.princeton.edu
Pro-Cure, Inc. - www.pro-cure.com
Pure Fishing - www.purefishing.com
Quaker Boy, Inc. - www.quakerboygamecalls.com
R.L. Winston Rod Co. - www.winstonrods.com
Reef Runner Lures - www.reefrunner.com
Remington Outdoor Company - www.remington.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
RIO Products - www.rioproducts.com
Savage Arms - www.savagearms.com
Shimano American Corp. - www.shimano.com
Shurhold Industries - www.shurhold.com
Snag Proof Manufacturing - www.snagproof.com
South Shore CVA - www.southshorecva.com
Speedhook Specialists - www.speedhook.com
SportDOG - www.sportdog.com
St. Croix Rods - www.stcroixrods.com
Streamlight - www.streamlight.com
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - www.ruger.com
Super Brush LLC - www.bore-tips.com
Tales End Tackle - www.talesendtackle.com
Tenzing - www.tenzingoutdoors.com
ThermaCELL - www.thermacell.com
Tink's - www.tinks.com
Toyota Motor Sales - www.toyotanewsroom.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - www.ttiblakemore.com
Umarex USA - www.umarexUSA.com
Vexilar, Inc. - www.vexilar.com
Visit Indy - www.VisitIndy.com
W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery - www.wrcase.com
WaveSpin Reels - www.wavespinreel.com
Weatherby - www.weatherby.com
White Flyer Targets - www.whiteflyer.com
Winchester Ammunition - www.winchester.com
Wrangler Rugged Wear - www.wrangleruggedwear.com
Xtreme Hardcore Gear - www.extremehardcoregear.com
Yakima Bait Co. - www.yakimabait.com
Yo-Zuri America - www.yo-zuri.com
Z-Man Fishing Products - www.zmanfishing.com

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

Hoosier Outdoor Writers

Application For New Membership

(Check Desired Classification below)

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

Personal Information:

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

Professional Information:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Signature: _____

Sponsor: _____

Who We Are

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

What We Do

These are the purposes of HOW:

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

What We Stand For

These are what we strive to accomplish:

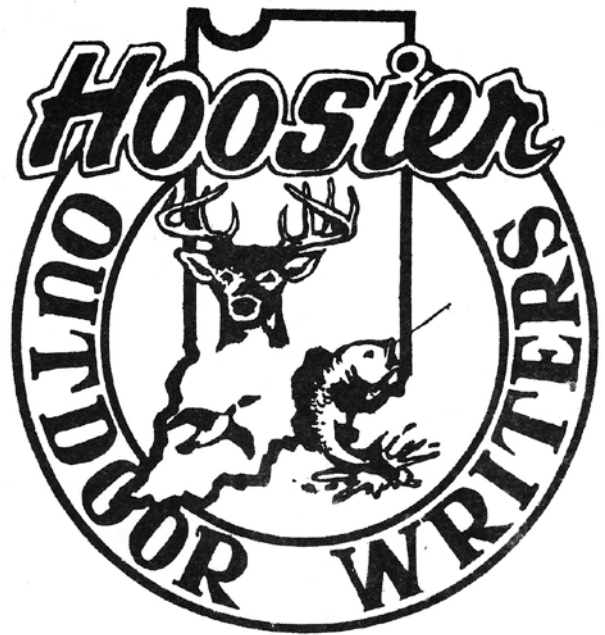
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor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

Membership Requirements

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

1. Active

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



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

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

2. Associate

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

3. Supporting

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

4. Active Student

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

5. Associate Student

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

Calendar of Events

OWAA 2015 Annual Conference: (www.aglowinfo.org) Knoxville, TN	June 26-28, 2015
ICAST Show 2015: (www.ICASTfishing.org) Orlando, FL	July 14-17, 2015
Indianapolis Fall Boat & RV Show: (www.renfroproductions.com) Indianapolis, IN	September 25-27, 2015
AGLOW 2015 Annual Conference: (www.aglowinfo.org) Minneapolis, MN	September 28-October 1, 2015
SEOPA 2015 Annual Conference: (www.seopa.org) Eufaula, AL	October 14-17, 2015
Cincinnati Travel, Sports & Boat Show: (www.hartproductions.com) Cincinnati, OH	January 15-17 & 20-24, 2016
SHOT Show 2016: (http://shotshow.org) Las Vegas, NV	January 19-22, 2016
Louisville Deer & Turkey Expo: (www.deerinfo.com) Louisville, KY	January 29-31, 2016
Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show: (www.renfroproductions.com) Indianapolis, IN	February 19-28, 2016
HOW 2016 Annual Conference: (www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org) Abe Martin Inn, Brown County State Park Nashville, IN	April or May, 2016 (Date to be announced)

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.