

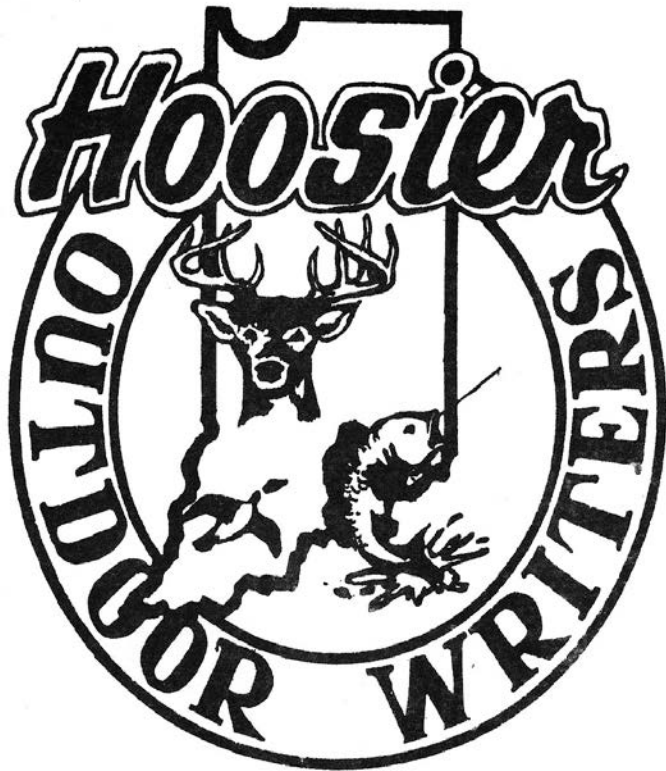
The Blade

November - December 2022

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Frosty Morning Pine Squirrel", 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 curious pine squirrel stops at the end of a frost-covered tree branch to see what the strange human is doing in that old treestand. The human is deer hunting, of course, but he is seeing far more squirrels than deer. Luckily, he brought his camera to the treestand, too. Photo by Tom Berg.

President's Message

by Phil Seng

Resolve to Get Outside (more)

Are you a resolutions person? Are you planning to lose weight, exercise more, or make more constructive use of your free time in 2023? Well, alongside those worthy goals, consider adding one more: get outside more!

As I reflect on 2022, I recognize that my own outdoor time was way down. Of course, I have a good excuse (don't we all?). My wife Laura and I are building a house. If you have ever built a house before, you can attest that it requires constant attention to a thousand details and numerous site visits to ensure the ideas you and the builder agreed to on paper are actually converting well to the structure sprouting up out of the ground. All that time and attention meant that my food plots and hunting blinds did not see my shadow all summer, I didn't work up any new loads at the shooting range, and I didn't even put batteries in my trail cams. Last summer, I was at the range or my hunting grounds *every weekend*, and a lot of weekday evenings as well. Like most of you, for me that outdoor time is simply a foregone conclusion, and it takes a powerful force to pull me away.

Enter the pole barn. Near the house site, we built a pole barn, complete with walk-in cooler and deer processing area. The cooler has an electric hoist and an overhead rail system that I've been designing and redesigning in my head for two decades. The house project is still ongoing, but the pole barn is finally done. I am extremely pleased with the way it turned out, but it is not lost on me that my zeal for getting the inside of the barn done cost me almost all of the 2022 fall/summer seasons. Oh, it was a trade-off, I know. I decided I was going to sacrifice hunting time in order to have the project done for deer processing in the late season and for all seasons yet to come. But I have to admit I heard that still small voice in my head numerous times as I was swinging a hammer, reminding me that there are only so many seasons in a person's life.

Along with my son, daughter, and a family friend, we did manage to break in the new set-up with six deer (only one was mine, but given the circumstances, I was very pleased). The real payoff came three weeks later, when we had the kids, grandkids, and several other families come together for a butchering/sausage-making party – an old family tradition. Three weeks at 36 degrees does wonders for the butchering process, and dry-aged venison backstrap on the grill is pretty hard to beat.

So yeah, I think it was a good trade-off for me this year, or at least that is what I keep telling myself. But my ledger is dripping the red ink of nature deficit, so my new year's resolutions are simple. My diet will include more fish and game; I'll get more exercise by hiking, wading, and rowing; and I will definitely spend much more of my free time in the great outdoors!

Happy new year, everyone.



The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents and Memorial Section

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

No new members for this issue.
See Member News Section
starting on page 15.

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

Jack Alkire – HOW President 1979
Bill Beeman – Executive Director
 Don Bickel
 Ed Blann
 Charlie Brown
 Gary Carden
Jim “Moose” Carden – HOW President 1982-83
 George Carey
 John Case
Bill Church – HOW President 1972
 Gene Clifford
 Jack “Big Jake” Cooper
 Mark Cottingham
 Jerry Criss
 Gary “Dox” Doxtater
 Dick Forbes
Tom Glancy – HOW President 1977
 Dale Griffith
 Phil Hawkins
 Fred Heckman
Marty Jaranowski – HOW President 1996
 Jack Kerins
Mike Lyle – HOW President 1981
Ralph “Cork” McHargue – HOW President 1976
 Dick Mercier
 Bob Nesbit
 Hellen Ochs
 Jack Parry
 Harry Renfro
“Bayou” Bill Scifres – HOW President – **6 Terms**
 George Seketa
 Hal Shymkus
 Al Spiers
 Robert “Doc” Stunkard
 Butch Tackett
 John Trout, Jr.
 Joe West

Past Presidents of HOW

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

The 2023 HOW Conference

Make Plans Now for the 2023 HOW Conference

As was announced back in November via email, the 2023 HOW Conference is scheduled to be held at **McCormick's Creek State Park**, not far from Spencer, IN. The property is located in southwest-central Indiana, a little over an hour's drive from downtown Indianapolis.

The conference will take place over the weekend of **May 19-21, 2023**, with the main meeting on Saturday, May 20. We will meet in the Oak Room inside the Canyon Inn at McCormick's Creek State Park.

As you know, we have been moving the HOW conference around the state every year and we have also talked about going back to the Indy Sport Show in February. Time was too short to get everything ready for an Indianapolis conference in February of 2023, but we plan to return to Indy at Sport Show time in 2024.

As usual, HOW members and guests may attend as much or as little of the conference as their schedules allow. Many members come only for the annual meeting on Saturday, and that's fine. For those who are interested, we will have our annual **HOW Fun Shoot** on Friday afternoon (May 19), followed by an informal barbecue in the evening. Details will be forthcoming as the date gets nearer. We are also hoping to have a fishing outing on Sunday, May 21 for anyone who wants to stay an extra day and do some fishing. The Indiana Slab Masters fishing club which has hosted us in the past may be available again this year, and we are currently working on the details with them. Hiking, bird watching and nature photography are other great pursuits that will be available in the park as well.

As expected, we will have plenty of interesting seminars and speakers at this conference. We will also announce the winners of our annual awards-in-craft contests and elect new officers.

For everyone who has come to love the HOW Raffle over the past several years, we are planning to make it even bigger and better this year. It will be hard to top the quality and quantity of the last few years, but we will do our best! If you haven't attended a conference recently, come see what it's all about!

We have already reserved a block of discounted rooms at the **Canyon Inn** inside McCormick's Creek SP for HOW Conference attendees who wish to stay overnight or for the entire weekend, and details for booking your room will be published in an upcoming issue of *The Blade*. There will also be camping available at the park's campground for those interested in camping.

Rest assured that we'll be working hard to make sure this conference is worth the trip. It will definitely be one that you won't want to miss! So mark your 2023 calendars now, and **SAVE THE DATE!**

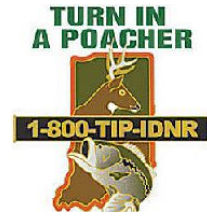


The Canyon Inn inside McCormick's Creek State Park will welcome HOW members next May at the start of our 2023 conference. Make your plans to attend now! Photo by Tom Berg.

Save The Date!
Conference: May 19-21, 2023
Annual Meeting: May 20, 2023



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



Once again, the Indiana Turn in a Poacher (TIP) Citizen's Advisory Board is sponsoring a writing contest to encourage HOW members to promote the TIP mission, the hotline and support of the TIP Advisory Board. **This year the prizes have jumped up to \$500 for first place; \$300 for second place; \$200 for third place.** Be sure to write your TIP article right away!

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

1. Brief description of TIP (see below—does not have to be verbatim)
2. TIP Hotline (1-800-TIP-IDNR)

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

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

To enter, submit an electronic copy of an article published between **February 1, 2022** and **January 31, 2023**. The TIP Citizen's Advisory Board will review all entries and will select the entries that best promote the mission of TIP and encourage citizens to get involved.

Entries should be marked as "TIP" entries and sent to Contest Coordinator Phil Seng (phil@djcase.com). They must be emailed by March 1, 2023.

What is TIP?

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

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

Citizens can help stop poachers in two ways. If you see, hear or learn about a poacher or any other fish and wildlife violation:

- Call 1-800-TIP-IDNR
- Submit a TIP online at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/7608.htm>.

If your TIP leads to an arrest, you may receive as much as a \$500 reward, and you can remain anonymous. More information is available at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2745.htm>

Don't wait until the end of the year – write your TIP article and get it published today!



Hoosier Outdoor Writers

Awards-in-Craft Contests and TIP Writing Contest



Calling all HOW members!

This is the time of year that we look back upon the previous 12 months and reflect on our best efforts in the world of outdoor media. Whether it be newspaper or magazine articles, photography, radio or TV broadcasts, or a video broadcast, it is time to gather your best work and consider entering it in the annual HOW Awards-in-Craft contests.

As has been the case for the past several years, our friends at **Toyota Motor Sales** will be sponsoring the HOW Awards-in-Craft contests again this year. So there will be cash prizes for all of the winners (first place, second place and third place). Our sincere thanks goes to Curt McAllister at Toyota for once again providing to the sponsorship.

While we are talking about contests, don't forget that this year's **TIP Writing Contest** is still underway. The Indiana Turn in a Poacher (TIP) Citizen's Advisory Board is again sponsoring a writing contest to encourage HOW members to promote the TIP mission, the TIP hotline and support of the TIP Advisory Board.

Articles for the TIP contest must be published between February 1, 2022 and January 31, 2023. The good news is that the contest is still open and you can still write an article and get it published before the deadline at the end of January. The bad news is that you only have until the end of January to get your TIP article published! If you have already written a qualifying article, be sure to submit it for the contest. You can't win if you don't enter!

For more information about the TIP writing contest, please see page 6 which details all of the rules. For more info and specific rules for the annual HOW AIC contests, see pages 9+10.

Good luck to everyone and be sure to send in your entries on time.



The 2023 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

**The Hoosier Outdoor Writers
would like to thank:**

TOYOTA MOTOR SALES

**For sponsoring the 2023
HOW Awards-In-Craft Contests**



The 2023 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

HOW CRAFTS AWARD CONTEST RULES

The contest year shall be for material published or aired from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. All submissions, including photography, must have been printed, aired, published or electronically posted during the contest year (entrant must have been a HOW member when the work was published).

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

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

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

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

RULES FOR SUBMISSION

- 1) Contest entries must be in an electronic form. Entries must be emailed (or postmarked if mailing a CD or DVD) **no later than midnight on March 1, 2023**. Entries emailed or postmarked after that date will be disqualified. Send all entries to the proper contest coordinator (to be announced later).
- 2) An official HOW contest entry form must accompany each entry. The entry form must also be sent electronically. Please type entry details into the form (an electronic copy of the form will be provided).
- 3) Send no material that needs to be returned. No original material is required. As mentioned above, print contest entries and photo contest entries must be sent in an electronic form. In the broadcast contest, tapes, recordings and DVDs are welcome.
- 4) All submissions of print entries (either from traditional paper or electronic media) must consist of one electronic copy of each article with bylines removed. This file must be text only – do not scan tearsheets or newspaper/magazine pages. Do not include photos or photo captions. This electronic copy must be submitted as a Microsoft Word Document (.doc) or as a PDF file (.pdf). Entries not following these rules will be disqualified. As mentioned, print entry files must be emailed (or filed on a CD or DVD and mailed) by the deadline.
- 5) Entries into the broadcast category require only one tape or recording and may be sent by tape cassette, CD, VHS or DVD formats. Radio and television entries may carry the broadcast station's name and call letters if they are on "as aired" dubbed tapes. TV entries should be dubbed minus commercials if possible to facilitate judging.
- 6) Entries in the photography division must consist of one electronic (digital) copy of each photo. This electronic copy must be saved as a JPEG file (.jpg or .jpeg). Prints, slides and paper copies of photos will not be accepted. Please include a title for each photo entry. Digitally produced photos should not be substantially manipulated. Allowable photo enhancement is limited to standard shooting/darkroom techniques, such as color correction, contrast control and image cropping.
- 7) An individual article, photo or broadcast may only be entered in one category/division. Entering the same piece in multiple categories/divisions will result in the disqualification of duplicate entries.
- 8) There is a limit of two entries per category.

For all [Article](#) entries, send submissions to the Writing Contest Coordinator:

Phil Cox, Email: contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

US Mail: 6489 S. Coxville Road, Montezuma, IN 47862

For all [Photography](#) entries, send submissions to the Photo Contest Coordinator:

John Martino, Email: jmartinooutdoors@att.net

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

For all [Broadcast](#) entries, send submissions to the Broadcast Contest Coordinator:

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

US Mail: 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311

CONTEST DIVISIONS

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

WRITING ARTICLE CATEGORIES

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

BROADCAST CATEGORIES

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

PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES

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

2023 HOW AWARDS-IN-CRAFT CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Category _____ Division _____

Title: _____

Where published/aired: _____

Publication/air date: _____

Entries and forms must be emailed or postmarked no later than March 1, 2023

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

For immediate release: December 14, 2022

DNR Will Increase Chinook Salmon Stocked in Lake Michigan

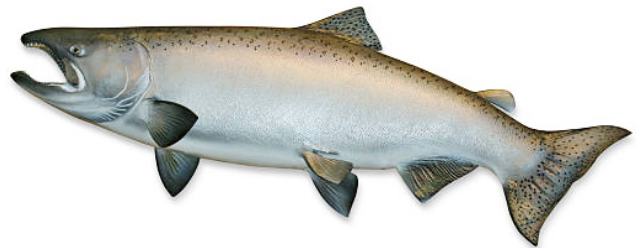
Indiana DNR will increase Chinook salmon stocked in Lake Michigan by 50,000 starting in spring 2023, per Lake Michigan Committee agreement. The change will increase the annual production target for Chinook from 225,000 to 275,000.

Baitfish populations have rebounded from an all-time low in the mid-2010s after lake-wide stocking reductions made by all state agencies during the past decade.

Ben Dickinson, Indiana DNR's Lake Michigan biologist, says the improved predator-prey balance in the lake allows for the increase, which should benefit anglers, but biologists will be monitoring for the need for future adjustments.

"Anglers should realize increasing stocking does increase predation pressure and may increase future risk to baitfish populations," he said. "We will continue to closely watch the predator-prey balance to help ensure the long-term health of the fishery."

Staff from Mixsawbah State Fish Hatchery recently traveled to Michigan to obtain Chinook salmon eggs to meet the new production target.



"Indiana doesn't have the infrastructure to take salmon eggs, so partnerships are crucial for our Lake Michigan program," said Rob Ackerson, Mixsawbah hatchery manager. "We're grateful to our Michigan DNR partners for providing us with the opportunity to obtain eggs."

Fish from the eggs will be raised at Mixsawbah to be stocked in April 2023. They will spend one to three years feeding in Lake Michigan before returning to their stocking sites as mature spawning adults in the fall.

More information on the hatchery is at on.IN.gov/mixsawbah-sfh.

More information on Lake Michigan fishing is at on.IN.gov/lake-michigan-fishing.

Media contact: Ben Dickinson, Lake Michigan Fisheries Research Biologist, DNR Fish & Wildlife, phone: 219-874-6824, email: bdickinson@dnr.IN.gov.

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

For immediate release: December 21, 2022

Stay Safe, Always Assume You are on ‘Thin Ice’

With the inevitable upcoming drop in temperatures across the state, Indiana Conservation Officers advise Hoosiers and visitors of the potential hazards of being on frozen lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams. It’s also important to keep a watchful eye for other people who may venture out on neighborhood retention ponds, lakes and, other waterways and find themselves in trouble.

Every winter, thousands of Hoosiers safely enjoy fishing, skating, hiking, or just sliding around on frozen ponds and lakes. And every year, people drown after falling through ice. Don’t let this happen to you.

Similar to needing to drive differently on snowy versus clear roads, being able to safely have fun on ice may require adjusting what you have done in the past. When thinking about getting on the ice, put safety first. Believe all ice is thin ice unless proven otherwise.

Here are a few tips to remember when considering standing on or walking on a frozen body of water:

- No ice is safe ice. If you don’t know the thickness of the ice, don’t go on it.
- Before going on the ice, leave a note of your whereabouts with a friend or family member.
- Don’t test the thickness of the ice while alone.
- Test the thickness of the ice with an ice auger. At least 4 inches of ice is recommended for ice fishing; 5 inches is recommended for snowmobiling.
- Carry ice hooks and rope gear.
- Wear a life jacket or flotation coat.

Wearing a life jacket is especially important when on ice. If you fall through, a life jacket will keep your head above the water until help arrives.

Remember that a new coating of snow, while perhaps beautiful, can make for treacherous ice conditions. Snow can serve as insulation, causing water to freeze at a slower rate. When snow and rain freeze into ice, it is not as strong as solid, clear ice.

Another potentially dangerous situation is when you see a pet or other animal in distress on the ice. If that happens, do not go after it. Instead, contact local emergency response personnel, who are equipped to make a rescue. Enjoy the winter weather but make safety a priority. A few more tips:

- Some bodies of water can appear to be frozen solid but have thin ice in potentially unexpected areas.
- Flowing water, such as rivers and streams, should be avoided when covered by a layer of ice.
- Similarly, water that is surrounded by sand may freeze with inconsistencies in the thickness of the ice.
- Underground springs, wind, waterfowl, and other animals can also keep areas of ice thin.

Media Contact:

Capt. Jet Quillen, DNR Law Enforcement, email: jquillen@dnr.IN.gov, phone: 317-903-1671.



Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

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

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

Report from Mike Lunsford:

HOW board member Mike Lunsford is a serious bird watcher, or birder, and he loves photographing the birds he sees year-round. “Here is a photo of a beautiful female **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (*Sphyrapicus varius*) that visited a poplar tree near my cabin in mid-November,” he said. “Both males and females have a distinctive red forehead patch, but female sapsuckers lack the red throats that males have. Because I live close to a wetlands, I have more woodpeckers of all types near my place than I think are typical, so I get photos of hairy, downy, red-headed, red-bellied, and pileated woodpeckers fairly often. I don’t see many yellow-bellied sapsuckers, so this was a treat.”

The yellow-bellied sapsucker typically does not breed in Indiana, but they can be seen in the winter and during the spring and fall migration when they are coming or going to their breeding grounds to the north. They usually nest in northern Michigan, northern Wisconsin and on up into Canada. Many of the northeastern states like New York, New Hampshire and Maine are home to breeding yellow-bellied sapsuckers, too.



Report from Dave Hoffman:

When HOW member Dave Hoffman saw the photo of the **Sora** (*Porzana carolina*) in the May-June 2022 issue of *The Blade*, it reminded him of the time he saw one of these birds. “I had seen one in Florida several years ago,” he recalled. “I remember that I was surprised to see it at the time, and I only got a couple quick shots (see below). I thought that it was a unique and neat little bird.”

The sora is a species of rail, and one of their nicknames is the Carolina rail. They are a wetland bird, and they are usually seen walking along the shorelines of lakes, ponds and marshes where there are plenty of cattails, bulrushes and other wetland vegetation.



The sora is very good at walking on top of thin reeds very quickly, flicking their tail and disappearing behind the dense aquatic foliage in the blink of an eye. It is among these shoreline weeds and cattails that the sora finds the seeds and aquatic insects that it likes to eat.



Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors



Report from Tom Berg:

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg captured this photo of a **Brown Creeper** (*Certhia americana*) right in his own back yard in mid-December. “These tiny birds are so fast,” said Berg, “that getting a good photo of one is very difficult. I was looking out my window when this one landed near the base of one of my Norway maple trees, and it very quickly hopped his way up the trunk and out of sight.”

“I grabbed my camera and came back to the window, and he moved to the base of another maple tree right outside my window. He frantically picked his way up this tree even faster, but I was able to get a couple of shots.”

Ornithologists have studied brown creepers and determined that they typically burn 4-10 calories per day. Though we do not know how many insects they must consume to produce the energy equivalent of 4-10 calories, scientists have noted that brown creepers get enough energy from eating one spider to climb a tree trunk nearly 200 feet vertically!



Another report from Mike Lunsford:

Mike Lunsford always seems to be out and about with his camera, and the fall months are no exception. He recently found a group of **Wild Turkeys** (*Meleagris gallopavo*) searching for food among the fallen leaves, and he caught this one as it hopped up onto a split-rail fence.

“I photographed this female turkey in late October as it and about a half-dozen others were making their way across a backyard into the woods,” said Lunsford. “There are a lot of walnut and buckeye trees in that place, so I figured they were going to stay a while if I was quiet. But they heard me, and this is one of the only decent shots I got.”

Did you take a cool bird photo while exploring afield recently? Did you see the bird in your backyard? While traveling far from home? Send the photo in for others to enjoy!

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



HOW Member News

Maxwell and Sawtelle Whisper: “St. Croix, Pray for Us”

Two HOW past presidents, John Maxwell and Bob Sawtelle, hit the water with a real splash in New Buffalo, Michigan this past fall. They were the winners of one of the auction prizes at the 2022 HOW conference this past April: a guided fishing trip with our very own Josh Lantz on some of his “home” waters. Here is the trip report from John Maxwell:

With another powerful flex of the big lake-trout’s tail, the St. Croix fishing rod doubled over – straining from the pull of the mad Lake Michigan fish diving hard and fast to the bottom of New Buffalo’s harbor. Around the boat and harbor swam the fish; around the bow and gunnels sprinted fishing guide Josh Lantz, all while strong-arming and corralling the beast.



Above: Josh Lantz holds a New Buffalo harbor lake trout caught while vertical jigging a silver spoon tied to a St. Croix fishing rod on a sunny day in October.

Left: John Maxwell lifts a very healthy Lake Michigan lake trout he caught while fishing with Bob Sawtelle and Josh Lantz. Photos on this page and next by (and courtesy of) John Maxwell.

The fish went down. The rod bent down. The rod sprang up. The fish came up, down, up, around and down – and up again – and again – until Lantz finally muscled the autumn laker close enough for a deft netting job by angler Bob Sawtelle.

Hoosier Outdoor Writers’ member Lantz, who is also St. Croix’s communications manager, was showing HOW members Sawtelle and John Maxwell how to catch big lake trout during an October fishing adventure in southwest Michigan.

Lantz showed Sawtelle and Maxwell how to vertical-jig spoons to catch lake trout, via strong and pliant St. Croix spinning rods



deployed in the Michiana harbor. He also instructed them on how to fly cast and drift various plastic beads (which resembled a stray king salmon egg) under a strike indicator in the St. Joseph River.

Big migrating steelhead trout lay along the river's current lines, silently finning in the shadows. One of the best places to find them is just below traditional king salmon spawning areas.

The fishing tactics and rods worked well. Many big fish were boated, mixed with three days of beautiful

Left: HOW members Bob Sawtelle and Josh Lantz ready the fishing boat for launch into the autumn-clear water of the St. Joseph River north of Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Below: John Maxwell hefts a strong winter-run St. Joe steelhead trout fooled into biting a salmon-egg imitation bead drifted below a strike indicator, along current breaks below salmon-spawning redds.

weather and some very hearty food and drink from a few quaint small-town Michigan microbreweries.

Sounds like an awesome fishing trip, guys!



HOW Members Enjoy the 2022 Deer Season

Bill Keaton (Spencer, IN)

HOW Legal Advisor Bill Keaton has been an avid deer hunter for decades, and this year he was able to concentrate on hunting again now that he has moved into his new home and his deer hunting and processing equipment is no longer in storage.

“I had been seeing two or three ‘shooter’ bucks since August,” recalled Keaton, “and several small fork and four-point bucks. However, I wasn’t seeing them on my game cameras despite moving the cameras around to the areas where I had been seeing them. It was like they were ghosts.”

“As it got closer to the opening of the gun season, I upped my scouting and found some rubs and a scrape line along our creek and at a bit of a choke point that I thought was funneling the deer. I had never hunted the property to which we moved last year, so I was trying to learn if there were any patterns.”

“I bought a Booner six-sided blind back in September. It is a fairly light plastic blind but seems to be well made, and the plastic is heavy enough that I think it will last. I built an eight-by-eight wood platform with 18” four-by-four legs. I built it with heavy sides and cutouts for tractor forks so I could easily move the blind around. I placed the blind at the top of a hillside about 100 yards above the scrape line I intended to hunt.”



“Opening morning was cold and we were blessed with steady snow. It started snowing shortly after legal shooting hours which where I live was 6:58am. I was settled in the blind by 6:30am, just waiting for enough light to see and for legal shooting hours. It continued to snow and by about 10:30am we had more than two inches on the ground.”

“By about 11:00am I had seen several does and two small bucks. It was at that time that I saw a large deer moving toward me about 400 yards away. By the way it moved and walked, I was sure it was a descent buck. When I found him in my binoculars, I could see that it was a shooter buck. As I watched him get closer, he turned away from me and went down into a brushy draw toward the creek. I lost sight of him then. A short time later he walked out from behind some cedars and along the scrape line I was hunting. When he got where I thought I had my best shot, I made a doe bleat sound to try to get him to stop for a shot. He immediately froze and looked my way. I squeezed off a shot from my Remington 760 .308 which had been my father’s gun. The buck lurched and ran a short distance before he crumpled. He was a big deer, and when I butchered him we had more than enough meat to last Rita and me until next hunting season.”



2022 Deer Season Continued

Tom Berg (Dyer, IN)

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg had a great deer season this year, although he might say that it was all over too soon. That's good news and bad news, but mostly good news. Here is his report:

"I always look forward to opening weekend of the firearms season for deer," said Berg. "I started hunting deer in 2014, so I've still got a lot to learn. But I absolutely love watching deer from the relative secrecy of an elevated hunting stand, and I almost always include a camera in my backpack of gear. I have taken some cool photos of deer that have walked out into my field of view, without ever knowing that I was there."

"This year was a little different than normal, as I was done hunting at 6:56am on Sunday morning of opening weekend with my second deer on the ground. Usually, I go several days without having a decent shot at a deer – any deer."

"On opening morning (Saturday) it seemed like business as usual – no deer movement at all for most of the morning. I didn't even see any squirrels, which

was odd. Then in the late morning a small spike buck walked out into the field. He was missing one of his spikes, so he looked like a unicorn! I let him walk by and that was the extent of the morning action."

"Shortly after lunch I was back in the stand for the afternoon hunt, and at about 3:15pm I saw an antlered buck emerge from the treeline about 40 yards away and step into a picked bean field. I knew right away he was a good buck. I reached for my Henry .308 rifle and he immediately looked up at me in the treestand. I froze and we stared at each other for about 10 seconds. I was afraid he saw me and was about to bolt. Instead, he looked down long enough for me to bring the rifle up while he wasn't looking. As soon as I brought it to my shoulder he instantly looked right back up at me and we both froze again. He must have caught my movement in his peripheral vision. He stared at me without moving for a full minute, but it felt like 10 minutes. I was sure he would run at any moment and then he'd be gone. Luckily for me, he slowly turned and started walking away and I was able to sight him in my rifle scope. I made a clean shot and he only ran about 30 yards, straight out into the middle of the bean field. Sometimes it pays to be lucky."

"The next morning I was back in the treestand before dawn to see if I could add a doe to my venison harvest for this year. Shortly after legal shooting hours, two does appeared in the same bean field about 90 or 100 yards away. I brought my rifle up and waited until one of them turned broadside to me. As soon as she did, I fired and saw her jump. She turned and ran back into the woods where she had emerged. I found her about 25 yards back in the trees. Two deer is more than enough for me, so it was a quick end to a successful season."

"My family and I will enjoy the venison for the next year for sure. Looking back at my deer season, I'm a little sad that it ended so quickly. On the other hand, I am extremely grateful that I tagged both a buck and a doe, and I didn't have to sit in the tree stand when it got really cold the following weekend!"

2022 Deer Season Continued

Brandon Butler (Columbia, MO)

HOW past president Brandon Butler connected with a great buck on his Missouri home turf:

“On the morning of November 14,” said Butler, “I killed my third buck in three seasons off the same farm in Howard County, Missouri. The hunting has been good enough to convince me to buy the 40-acre agricultural property and work to restore it to much better wildlife habitat. I plan to plant 1,000 tree seedlings this year, build a 3-acre lake and return 20-acres to native tallgrass prairie.”

“This year’s solid 8-pointer was running a hot scent line on a neighbor’s property. I used every call in my bag to convince the heavy-antlered brute to cross the fence, which he finally did. This buck was running so hard, he was slobbering. A single shot at 50 yards with my .270 ended the back and forth between me and the buck.”



Vikki Trout (Jasper, IN)

HOW member Vikki Trout had a wonderful deer season this year, although it took a little longer for her to bag a good buck than she had hoped. Here is her report:

“After seeing a very wide 8-point buck once during the bow season in Crawford County, I had high hopes of seeing him again,” she said. “Gun season came in on November 12, and I had just returned from Chicago after taking my Dad to his last chemo treatment. As I sat in my stand day dreaming and wondering if the buck was still alive, I saw other deer including several bucks, but not him.”

“That is, until a few days later when I spotted him once again – this time with a doe. Although he was only 40 yards from my stand, he and the doe refused to come out of the woods into the food plot. All I could do was watch them and hope they would eventually come out. However, both the buck and doe headed north – away from me. My heart sank approximately 20 minutes later as I heard a single shot to the north of me. I was afraid someone else got him.”



“On November 21, things turned around! Unsure as to what bucks may still be around, I passed on some smaller deer that came in the food plot that morning. It was 1:00pm and I spotted the wide 8-point buck just north of me. He was alone and I had two doe fawns in the food plot eating and playing. He finally stepped out into the food plot and stood broadside at a mere 30 yards. I pulled the trigger, and as he ran off I never took my eyes off of him. He fell approximately 20 yards behind my tree stand.”

Congrats, Vikki!

Jarrett Manek Reflects on the Role of Outdoor Mentors

I recently sent the note below out to my naturalist colleagues within the Indiana state parks department, but I also thought that it goes for all of us who share in not just programs with education, but also with writing about the outdoors, as well. We all have a passion for the outdoors that we want to pass on to others in some way. That is why we do what we do. My message got forwarded to more than my naturalist colleagues and then on to many others. I received many comments regarding my message about reflecting on what we do. You never know what kind of impact you may have on someone else. So please continue to do what you are doing by sharing, being patient, and passing on your love of the outdoors to others.

Thanks,

Jarrett Manek, Naturalist
O'Bannon Woods State Park
Nature Center and 1850's Haypress Facility Manager

To all:

As we all end a busy season with the holidays, I wanted to share a few thoughts. Even though we may be tired of questions and people after spending the whole year with a lot of strangers who visit our facilities, events, and properties, you never know what kind of influence you might have had on that "one" person.



The late Paul Carmony shows off a white-throated sparrow to his audience at Clifty Falls State Park.

As a young kid about age 7-ish or so, I remember a naturalist at Clifty Falls State Park who took the time to help me untangle a baby black rat snake out of a ball of scotch tape which it had gotten caught in. This naturalist was patient and calm in his demeanor. He was understanding and sympathetic. He was willing to educate and teach. He included me in the long and cumbersome activity of freeing the little snake, when he could have easily taken it and let nature take its course – and then brushed me out the door. Or he could have scolded me for even picking it up in the first place. There are a lot of "could haves" or "would haves". However, he took the time to share something with me that he loved. His name was Paul Carmony.

That incident stuck with me for the rest of my life. As I grew up, I visited Clifty Falls State Park and enjoyed their programs. I even had my birthday parties at the park, spending time exploring the creeks and falls. I had decided that what Paul Carmony had taught me about being a naturalist was what I wanted to do with my life. I finally grew up enough to work alongside Paul for a year or two before he retired again – for like the second or third time. Paul had taken the time with a young child one Sunday afternoon to untangle a snake.

After nearly 30 years of doing the job that I love, I am sad to say that Paul just recently passed away. His obituary mentioned a lot about what he did to promote conservation, and how great a steward he was for our natural resources. He never really stopped being a naturalist. He might have been a man of small stature, but he left a very big impact on the individuals that he came in contact with, especially me.

As we get ready for a new year, please take the time to reflect on the individuals who you may have mentored and took some time with, because you just never know who that next child might be to fill your shoes someday.

Have a Blessed Christmas and New Year!

Rick Bramwell Donates 100th Pint of Blood

HOW past president Rick Bramwell has been donating blood to local blood banks for many years. Evidently someone is keeping track, too, because he just recently donated his 100th pint of blood. Here is his report:

“On Saturday, December 17, 2022,” said Bramwell, “I was interviewed by WISH-TV at Lucas Oil Stadium for Bleed Blue Day. I received special recognition for giving my 100th pint of blood. The pool of folks who give blood is shrinking. You can give the gift of life every 56 days.”

“My cardiologists told me it is very good for your heart to give blood on a regular basis,” he continued. “So roll up your sleeves, HOW members. Versiti Blood Center will more duly honor my gift of blood on February 13, 2023. At their Fishers location, I will receive a plaque, ice cream, and cake.”

“Come on guys and gals, hunting rabbits in a briar patch is more painful than the Versiti Blood Center's needle stick. Your pint of blood can save up to three lives.”



Nate Mullendore Traps His First Otter

HOW member Nate Mullendore moved from Indiana to Minnesota quite a while ago, and he has been enjoying all of the outdoor activities that Minnesota has to offer. One of those activities in the fall and winter is fur trapping.



“I’m running a small trapline along the river behind my house for fun,” said Mullendore, “but that’s it. I trapped my first otter under the ice this year, too. We’re allowed four otters in Minnesota, but I’m content with my one this season. They are fun animals to have around.”

“I could probably cover costs by trapping some beaver nearby, but that’s a lot of work, especially with the early ice we got!”



Mike Lunsford Takes Top Photography Honors At Covered Bridge Art Association Show

HOW board member Mike Lunsford was recently honored by the Covered Bridge Art Association for winning the photography division in its annual Open Show 2022. Lunsford's winning entry was titled *Parke County Mosaic*, a 16"x20" color photo taken in a small Parke County stream. Besides being a member of HOW, Lunsford is also a member of the River City Art Association.

"The awards were announced to the public at a reception at the Covered Bridge Art Gallery in Rockville on September 25th," said Lunsford. "I was truly honored; there were numerous area photographers in the contest who I admire, and my black-and-white photo of milkweed, called *Winter's Past*, also took 2nd place. It was a big surprise."



"I took the stream picture late last winter in a small Parke County branch about three miles from my house. The water was so clear, and the sun was hitting it so well, that I just straddled the brook and focused straight down into the water; it was worth getting cold wet feet. It was just a perfect combination of factors."

"I don't plan to sell this photo as it is framed; it's going to hang in my house."



Josh Lantz Joins St. Croix Rod as Corporate Communications Manager

HOW past president Josh Lantz was recently hired by St. Croix Rod as their new Corporate Communications Manager. Lantz brings 28 years of fishing-industry communications experience to the newly created position at St. Croix Rod.

A lifelong angler, Lantz, 52, grew up on Lake Wawasee in Northern Indiana and graduated from Ball State University in 1993 with a pair of bachelor's degrees in Urban Planning and Development and Environmental Design. A freelance outdoor writer since 1994, Lantz entered the fishing and communications industries full time in 2002, continuing his freelance communications work while also serving as Editor-In-Chief of Indiana Outdoor News (2000-2016) and working as a self-employed fly-fishing guide (1999-2016).

Lantz also served as Executive Director of the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers (AGLOW) for the five-year period between 2010 and 2015 and worked as Chief Writer and Post-Production Video Editor for Raghorn, Incorporated, (2003-2014) creating over 250 episodes of award-winning, national outdoor television programming for series such as Wild Adventures, Ice Men, and Angling the Great Lakes.

Lantz has been employed for the past eight years as Communications Specialist and Group Editor with Traditions Media, helping bolster industry communications and providing media-relations services for some of the best brands in the outdoors industry, including St. Croix Rod.

“Today, native storytelling through industry distribution, quality editorial content, direct-to-angler communications and top-tier service to hardworking media partners are critical parts of any successful fishing brand’s overall marketing strategy,” Lantz says. “Traditions Media has been a pioneer in this area, and I’m very grateful for the opportunities I’ve been given to work with and learn from this talented team.”



In his new role as Corporate Communications Manager, Lantz will work with the St. Croix Marketing Team, led by Vice President of Marketing, Jesse Simpkins. “I’ve known and worked with Jesse for many years,” says Lantz. “There are very few companies and very few people I would have left my career at Traditions Media for, but Jesse and St. Croix were at the top of that extremely short list. I have great respect for the Schluter family who have owned St. Croix Rod for the past 45 years, and their entire leadership team all come from and understand the fishing industry. That’s incredibly rare today. They clearly understand that their brand exists for and because of anglers, as does each and every St. Croix team member. In working with St. Croix over the past five years, I’ve seen how its commitment and promise to anglers guides what every person involved with the brand does every day and impacts every decision that’s made. I couldn’t be more excited to come work on this team in this angler-driven environment.”

As Corporate Communications Manager, Lantz will be responsible for creating collaborative and consistent messaging for all brands and business units within the St. Croix portfolio, including St. Croix Rod, RODgeeks, and the St. Croix Factory Store.

“Josh has become a valuable and trusted part of the St. Croix family over the past few years, helping us clearly and consistently communicate our unique brand story, our values, our technologies, our mission, and – most importantly – our promise to anglers,” says Simpkins. “We couldn’t be happier to welcome him to our team full time. St. Croix is more committed than ever to handcrafting more and better tools for all anglers. Our new Corporate Communications Manager position speaks to that commitment, and I believe Josh’s communication skills and the respect he’s earned from his peers in the fishing media are going to help position the St. Croix brand and its anglers for continued success for many years to come.

Ken McBroom Passes on the Love of Hunting

HOW past president Ken McBroom loves hunting, but finding time for it during the past couple of seasons was tough. Happily, this year was much better for him.



“I was finally able to get a little serious about bowhunting again this season,” said McBroom, “and I put two does in the freezer. It felt good to spend more time in the woods than I have in the

past few years for various reasons.”

“The highlight of 2022 for me, though, was giving my nephew Rylee his first shotgun and introducing him to squirrel hunting at Christmastime. He learned a lot in three days and I can say with certainty he is a hunter for life.”

“He also learned about buck rubs and turkey scratching, and he learned about locating fresh cuttings from squirrels to know he was in the right area. The word ‘amazing’ was used by him throughout our time afield and I think he genuinely appreciates the whole idea of hunting – including eating fried squirrel with biscuits and gravy.”

John Galambos Sees Fish Everywhere He Looks

HOW member John Galambos captured this cool photo (at right) while spending some time fishing in Florida. “I took that photo from the beach as a storm was coming in,” he said. “That unusual cloud formation looked just like a saltwater fish to me!”

It almost looks like a red snapper!



Phil Cox Named the OLC Dr. Marion T. Jackson Conservationist of the Year in September

HOW member Phil Cox was recently presented the Ouabache Land Conservancy Dr. Marion T. Jackson Conservationist of the Year Award during the OLC's annual celebration at The Red Barn at Sycamore Farm. Thomas Baer, Ouabache Land Conservancy president, presented the award on September 15th.

OLC's Dr. Marion T. Jackson Conservationist of the Year Award was created to honor people that have made significant contributions to natural resources conservation in OLC's Wabash Valley service area of Parke, Vermillion, Putnam, Sullivan, Vigo, and/or Clay Counties.

Cox has been active with OLC for 15 years in various board capacities as VP of Development, VP of Programs (current), and Past President – while always remaining willing to help with all aspects of OLC's mission to preserve land for future generations. It is an honor that is well-deserved.

Congratulations, Phil!



Thomas Baer (left), Ouabache Land Conservancy president, presents Phil Cox with the OLC Dr. Marion T. Jackson Conservationist of the Year Award.

Troy McCormick Pursues African River Monsters

HOW past president Troy McCormick has been on safari in Africa twice now, and we think he is hooked for life. Speaking of being hooked, he made sure he set aside some time on his most recent safari to do a little fishing, and that outing sounded like a real adventure in itself!

“Whenever I travel, I usually try to combine hunting and fishing adventures to get the most out of my trips,” explained McCormick. “And while the options for fishing were limited when I recently went on safari to South Africa, one of the fish species available was definitely on my bucket list: African tigerfish.”

“I’ve watched Jeremy Wade, host of the TV show *River Monsters*, catch some amazing fish over the years, but I have always been most impressed with the vampire fish and the tigerfish. Mostly because of all of the teeth these two species have in their mouths. Since the vampire fish is native to the Amazon basin in South America, that one will have to wait for another time. But tigerfish were in my crosshairs on this trip.”



“I discovered that this freshwater species can be found throughout Africa, including the Congo, Zambia, Mozambique, and South Africa. There are some true giants in the African interior called the goliath tigerfish, which reach five feet in length and up to 110 pounds. But the two rivers in South Africa that harbor the more common, and more manageable-sized African tigerfish, *Hydrocynus vittatus*, were the Pongola River and Komati River.”

“We had already planned on spending time in Kruger National Park while in South Africa, and the Komati River was just outside the southern border of the Kruger. So the Komati River it was! Our PH (Professional Hunter) arranged for our lodging at a nearby resort lodge, and the lodge recommended a local fishing guide

to take us out for two days of fishing.”

(continued on next page)

“The ‘guide’ was more of a tour guide on a 4-mile, dammed section of the Komati River, and the boat was a homemade pontoon, complete with picnic tables, an overhead tarp, and an outhouse. He was a very personable fellow, though, and he did put us on the fish.”

“These predatory fish hunt mostly at night and feed periodically in the daytime off of the river bottom. We had tried



several lures that we thought would be good, but we were unsuccessful. We finally had some success with cut up chicken heart on a hook, which we cast out and let sit right on the river bottom. Always listen to your guide!”

“The four tigerfish that I caught ranged from 1-1/2 pounds to 3 pounds, and even though they were not huge, I loved every minute of catching them. Tigerfish take the bait hard and they fight even harder. One even broke the surface (twice) for some exciting aerial acrobatics. I also scored an 8-1/2 pound African sharp-toothed catfish on the trip.”

“The fish we caught on the Komati River may not have been giants, or goliaths, but I was happy that I successfully caught some river monsters on my safari.”

Top: Troy McCormick with one of the very toothy tigerfish he caught.
Left: The African sharp-toothed catfish is very long and slender – it looks cool!

HOW Members Win Awards in TOWA EIC Competition

Many members of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers are also members of other outdoor writer organizations. AGLOW, OWAA, SEOPA, POMA, MOC and KOPA are just a few that come to mind right away, and each of those have (or had) HOW members among their ranks.



Recently, the Tennessee Outdoor Writers Association (TOWA) announced the winners of their annual Excellence-in-Craft competition, and two current HOW members were among those winners: Richard Hines and Tom Berg. Here are the details:

TOWA Excellence-in-Craft Winners:

Best Magazine Article

2nd Place – Richard Hines
Year of the Cicada: Brood X

Best of Photography

3rd Place – Tom Berg
Howling Coyotes

HOW Members Thinking About “Retired” Status

A few HOW members have recently asked about the “Retired” membership classification. Actually, the title of the membership classification should be called “Retired Active”. This classification is for Active members who have retired from writing, and meet the criteria below. Here is the exact wording of the “Retired Active” classification from the HOW Bylaws:

RETIRED ACTIVE members shall be Active members in good standing, who have been active members for at least ten (10) years, are retired from the active dissemination of outdoor communications, and are at least sixty-two (62) years of age. Active members who meet the requirements set forth in this paragraph and who choose to remain within the organization, shall notify the Secretary of the Association in writing of his or her election of retired status. Active Retired members shall retain all privileges of Active membership, but are required to pay no dues. At each meeting of the Board of Directors, the Secretary shall report to Board of Directors the names of all persons requesting Active Retired Membership. The grant of such status shall be entirely at the discretion of the Board of Directors who shall vote upon each request.

If any HOW members have questions about the membership classifications, please contact HOW Executive Director Tom Berg (email: director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org).

Membership Changes and Member Contact Info

The following HOW members have updated contact information:

Mike Berg: New address: 5519 W. 154th Ave, Lowell, IN 46356.
Josh Lantz: New email address: joshl@stcroixrods.com.
Brent Wheat: New address: 240 Terrace Lane, Lebanon, IN 46052.
Boomerang Tool Co. New media contact: Director of Digital Marketing Tim Miller, phone: 909-935-2612, email: timothy.miller@wcc-mfg.com.

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.



State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management

1919 Steven Avenue, Bedford, Indiana, 47421 Phone: (812) 653-5563 Website: www.sicim.info

Indiana
Invasives Initiative



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Contact 1: Will Drews (SICIM Chair)

Email: sicim.info@gmail.com

Contact 2: Stephanie Schuck (SICIM Executive Director)

Email: stephanie@sicim.info

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) has officially entered into a new five-year agreement with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to help fund the Indiana Invasives Initiative.

This agreement provides partial funding for Indiana Invasives Initiative staffing and general operations required to manage the initiative. This next iteration will also include reimbursements (up to a certain amount) to Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs) in Indiana for conducting Weed Wrangles, landowner surveys and outreach events.

SICIM will work with the CISMAs to develop a method for reimbursement, starting with Weed Wrangles, and more information will be made available as this process is finalized. SICIM will also continue working with counties who are not yet represented by a local CISMA, with the goal of having every county in Indiana represented.

Regional Specialists will continue to work in their counties to help maintain current and create new CISMAs, as well as conduct landowner surveys and create management plans for landowners while participating in outreach events throughout the state.

SICIM is a 501-c-3 non-profit organization established in 2008. The organization is overseen by a Board of Directors. The organization's mission is to protect, restore, and enhance Indiana's landscapes by coordinating efforts to identify, prevent and control invasive species. In 2017, SICIM undertook a statewide role, in partnership with NRCS, to develop CISMAs to represent all counties in Indiana. Under this new statewide role, SICIM currently employs five Regional Specialists, an Indiana Invasives Initiative Project Coordinator, and an Executive Director.

For more information about SICIM and the Indiana Invasives Initiative, visit <https://www.sicim.info/>.

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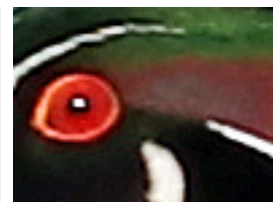
*TO PROTECT, RESTORE, AND ENHANCE INDIANA'S LANDSCAPES BY
COORDINATING EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY, PREVENT, AND CONTROL INVASIVE SPECIES*

Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by St. Croix Rods

Wood Ducks are at Home in the Trees or on the Water



Close-up
→
Original
←



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue must have been

too easy, since it was correctly identified by a total of sixteen (16) HOW members. Mike Schoonveld, Bob Jennings, Mike Lunsford, Bill Keaton, Richard Hines, Phil Seng, Alan Garbers, Jack Spaulding, Don Cranfill, Brandon Butler, Ken McBroom, Troy McCormick, Mike Berg, Nate Mullendore, Phil Cox and John Maxwell

were all able to identify it. When we drew a name at random for the Abu Garcia fishing rod/reel combo, **Ken McBroom** was the lucky winner. Congratulations, Ken! Our friends at **Pure Fishing** will send the prize directly to you.

As can be seen in the photo above, the mystery creature for this issue was a Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*). Wood ducks are our most colorful native duck species – and they are very beautiful indeed. Male wood ducks, in particular, are truly unforgettable. They have hints of iridescent green and brown on their head, along with bold black and white markings. Their bill is pinkish red and their eyes are bright red. Their chest is a rich chestnut brown color; their sides are light tan.

Wood ducks prefer freshwater marshes, ponds and streams where there are lots of trees and vegetation. Small lakes and ponds surrounded by bottomland forests is prime habitat for wood ducks. One reason these birds are called wood ducks is because their favorite nesting sites are inside the cavities of trees. Many of these nesting sites are in dead trees, but they are happy to use holes in live trees, too. Some people build wooden nest boxes for wood ducks and they’ll use them, too.

For this issue, our friends at **St. Croix Rods** have donated a very nice prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be a brand new X-Trek (pronounced cross-trek) spinning rod/reel combo. See below for more info on the prize and this issue’s nature question.



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

Tom Berg has posed another Nature Photo mystery. The photo shown at right is part of a close-up of a creature that can be found throughout the state of Indiana, and you might even see it in your own back yard. Does it look familiar? Have you ever seen this color pattern before?



This creature may be easy for some people to identify, and harder for others. But we’ll see. Do you know of any creatures that look like this? This time you **DO NOT** have to identify the exact species. If you think it’s a species of bat, for example, just guess “Bat” (of course, it’s not a bat). If you think you know the answer, send an email to me at thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you’re right, you will be entered in this issue’s prize drawing (hopefully we will have one)!

As mentioned, **St. Croix** (www.stcroixrods.com) has donated an excellent X-Trek precision-balanced spinning combo for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. The MSRP on this exceptional rod/reel combo is nearly \$200, so it is a great prize. If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw a winner at random from the correct entries. All nature photos on this page were taken by Tom Berg.



HOW Supporting Member News

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



Trailhunter Concept Previews New Grade of Toyota Trucks at SEMA Show

Las Vegas, NV (Nov. 1, 2022) – Toyota announced the new Trailhunter grade of trucks with the unveiling of the Trailhunter Concept at the 2022 Specialty Equipment Market Association Show (SEMA). Trailhunter will strengthen Toyota’s commitment to the overlanding community and take its legendary go-anywhere credentials to the next level. Toyota is planning to offer purpose-built trucks and SUVs under the Trailhunter name to outdoor enthusiasts who long for off-the-grid expeditions.

Trailhunter will serve as a flagship offering to inspire and support modifications of Toyota trucks with Toyota Genuine or Associated Accessory Products equipment across the lineup.

“Trailhunter trucks will come straight from the factory equipped to meet the needs of overlanding enthusiasts,” said Lisa Materazzo, group vice president – Toyota Division Marketing. “These trucks will be developed in-house by our engineering teams and will be the most capable OEM overlanding solutions designed to meet Toyota’s legendary quality, durability and reliability standards.”

Building on Toyota’s proven trucks and SUVs, Trailhunter vehicles will be highly capable, intentionally designed overlanding rigs. The all-new Trailhunter product line is designed to meet the demands of outdoor enthusiasts who love to explore with their vehicle. Designed and developed in-house at Toyota, Trailhunter vehicles will be adventure ready straight from the factory, providing a trail-ready truck with components and accessories that support a remote off-the-grid experience.

The Trailhunter concept vehicle showcases Toyota’s vision of what this new grade of truck could look like right off the dealer lot including available Associated Accessory Products. The concept truck on display at the 2022 SEMA Show is equipped with a Trailhunter-specific suspension setup, skid plates, roof rack, bumpers, lighting, refrigerator, rooftop tent and more all engineered specifically for overlanding applications. Enthusiasts can expect future Trailhunter products to deliver terrain versatility and protection as well as load-bearing performance and storage functionality for their equipment, recovery gear and base camp necessities.

Year after year at the SEMA Show, Toyota has demonstrated its commitment to performance, excitement and fun. Toyota has shown its strong devotion to outdoor enthusiasts through overlanding concepts such as the Tacoma Camper, the TRD Sport Trailer and the Tacoma Overlanding Concept. Trailhunter will take that commitment to the next level.

Toyota will share additional Trailhunter details next year. Every truck will be designed from the ground up to include the overlanding modifications and components enthusiasts expect. The Trailhunter badge – which resembles a compass to reinforce that the journey is the main purpose – will represent the vehicle’s bona fide credentials as a highly functional and purpose-built overlanding rig.

Media Contact: Contact Toyota’s Midwest Public Relations Manager Curt McAllister for more info. He can be reached on his cell at: 313-318-3906, or via email at: curt_mcallister@toyota.com.

HOW Supporting Member News

Mossberg® Adds Optic-Ready 500® and 835® Pump-Actions to Turkey Line

North Haven, CT – Mossberg has added optic-ready versions of their venerable 500 and 835 Ulti-Mag® pump actions to their extensive line of turkey shotguns. These hard-working, tom-thumping shotguns feature receiver cuts for low-profile, direct mounting of microdot sights (Shield RMSc pattern) and are fully camouflaged in one of the hottest throwback patterns, Mossy Oak® Greenleaf™. The 500 Turkey Optic-Ready is available in 410 bore and 20 gauge and the 835 Ulti-Mag Turkey Optic-Ready is a 12 gauge, 3.5-inch platform.

Mossberg's pump-action shotguns have set the standard for reliability, durability, and effectiveness in the field for over 50 years. Design features include non-binding twin action bars; dual extractors; a positive steel-to-steel lock-up; anti-jam elevator; anodized aluminum receiver; and universally recognized, ambidextrous top-mounted safety. These optic-ready turkey guns come standard with extended choke tubes; fiber optic front sight; drilled and tapped receiver for added versatility; sling swivel studs; 5+1 shell capacity; and installed cover plate if a mounted optic is not used.



Mossy Oak camouflage is recognized by turkey hunters across the country for their superior patterns that blend in naturally with the terrain, regardless of where you are hunting. Their Greenleaf pattern offers silhouette concealment with its blend of dirt, bark, moss, and oak sapling elements for early season to late spring hunts.

Mossberg 500 Turkey Optic-Ready 410 Bore (50107) – This 410, 3-inch pump action features full Mossy Oak Greenleaf camo coverage and comes with a 24-inch vent rib, AccuChoke™-compatible barrel. An extended X-Full choke tube is included. Just add a microdot sight to this fun-to-shoot pump action via the receiver cut and turkeys beware! MSRP: \$644

Mossberg 500 Turkey Optic-Ready 20 Gauge (54337) – Offering greater range without significantly more recoil than the 410, this fully-camouflaged 20-gauge, 3-inch pump action has a compact 22-inch vent rib, AccuChoke-compatible barrel and is equipped with an extended X-Full Ported choke tube. With the addition of a microdot sight, today's turkey loads, and properly choked, this pump-action delivers impressive performance. MSRP: \$644

Mossberg 835 Ulti-Mag Turkey Optic-Ready 12 Gauge (62232) – This 12-gauge, 3.5-inch pump action features an overbored barrel to 10-gauge dimensions which reduces pellet deformation for uniform, dense patterns. The 24-inch vent rib, AccuMag™-compatible barrel is equipped with an Ulti-Full choke tube. Completing this full-featured, hard-hitting turkey gun is full-camo coverage with Mossy Oak Greenleaf and the convenience of adding a microdot sight via the receiver cut. The 835 Ulti-Mag leads sets the standard for 12-gauge turkey guns. MSRP: \$693

Add a sight, grab some shells, and the Mossberg 500 and 835 Turkey Optic-Ready shotguns are designed to deliver results. Mossy Oak® and Greenleaf™ are trademarks of Haas Outdoor, Inc. To see the complete line of Mossberg turkey shotguns, please visit our web site at www.mossberg.com.

Media Contact: Linda Powell, Director of Media Relations. Contact her by phone: 336-209-1416 or email: LPowell@mossberg.com.

HOW Supporting Member News

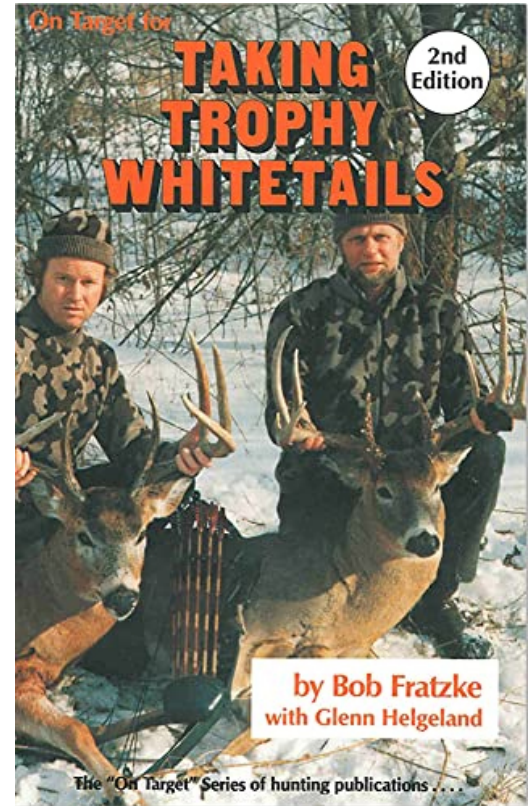
Target Communications Outdoor Books Releases New e-Book in the 2nd Edition of **TAKING TROPHY WHITETAILS**

October 22, 2022. Target Communications and Publisher Glenn Helgeland announce a new e-Book, including newly updated chapters: **TAKING TROPHY WHITETAILS**, by Bob Fratzke, with Glenn Helgeland. This in-depth book on year-round scouting could have huge payoffs for you. The book is available on Apple Books and Amazon Kindle, and features the following chapters:

1. Defining Your Hunting Goals
2. Scouting Year-Round
3. Preparing Yourself and Your Equipment
4. Hunting Season
5. Late Season Hunting
6. Treestands, Camouflage, Scents and Such
7. Landowner Permission - the Key to Good Hunting
8. Mock Scraping Changed Bob's Hunting
9. The Most Common Questions Bob is asked

Bob Fratzke spends 90% of his year-around-time scouting to make the other 10% more productive. He is a long-time consistently successful bowhunter of big bucks.

The new second edition e-Book of **TAKING TROPHY WHITETAILS** is available now. It is 225 pages (ISBN # 9780913305232) and is \$9.99 on Amazon.com. Also available at: www.targetcommbooks.com.



Left: Bob Fratzke poses with another great whitetail deer. For 50 years, he has seriously studied, scouted and hunted whitetail deer. Fratzke is probably the leading proponent and practitioner of thorough scouting. Ninety percent of his total hunting and hunting-related effort involves scouting ... to get to know the terrain, the cover, the food sources and the animal movement patterns as intimately as possible.



HOW's Supporting Member Websites

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

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

Hoosier Outdoor Writers

Application For New Membership

(Check Desired Classification below)

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

Personal Information:

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

Professional Information:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Signature: _____

Sponsor: _____

Who We Are

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

What We Do

These are the purposes of HOW:

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

What We Stand For

These are what we strive to accomplish:

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

Membership Requirements

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

1. Active

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



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

2. Associate

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

3. Supporting

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

4. Active Student

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

5. Associate Student

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

Calendar of Events

ATA 2023 Trade Show:

(www.archerytrade.org)

Indianapolis, IN

January 11-13, 2023

SHOT Show 2023:

(<http://shotshow.org>)

Las Vegas, NV

January 17-20, 2023

Ford Cincinnati Boat, Sport & Travel Show:

(www.CincySportShow.com)

Cincinnati, OH

January 20-22 & 25-29, 2023

Cincinnati Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo:

(www.CincySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

January 27-29, 2023

Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

February 17-19 & 22-26, 2023

Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

February 23-26, 2023

NRA 2023 Annual Meeting and Exhibits:

(www.nraam.org)

Indianapolis, IN

April 14-16, 2023

HOW 2023 Annual Conference:

(www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org)

Canyon Inn, McCormick's Creek State Park
Spencer, IN

May 19-21, 2023

(Annual meeting on May 20)

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*.