

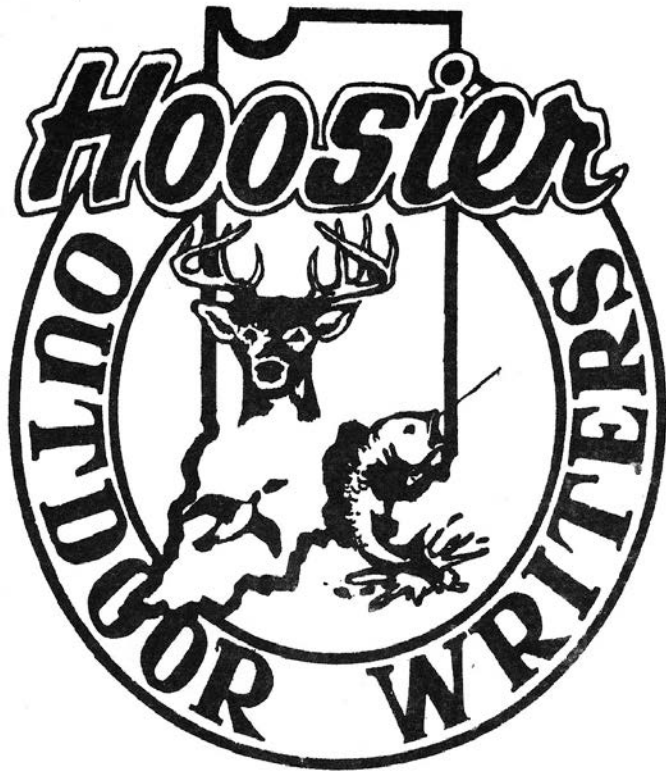
A photograph of a man in blue shorts jumping from a rocky waterfall into a pool of water. The waterfall is composed of several tiers of dark, wet rocks. The man is captured mid-air, with his arms outstretched and legs bent. The background shows a river flowing over more rocks under a bright sky.

The Blade

July - August 2023

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers

"Thrill-seekers Love Jumping From Waterfalls", photo by Tom Berg



Hoosier Outdoor Writers

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

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On the cover: *An adventurous thrill-seeker leaps from the top of High Falls in northern Alabama. Luckily for him, the pool below the falls is nice and deep and he and his friends who also jumped were unhurt. A helpful sign nearby said "Jump at your own risk". Photo by Tom Berg.*

President's Message

by Jarrett Manek

Savor the Little Things

Summer as always seems to come and go faster each year. I hope everyone is enjoying and surviving the heat, mosquitos, ticks and chiggers. Humidity is always a factor in the Ohio Valley where I am in the southern part of the state. Seasons always seem to come to a slow halt during this time when the weather is at an extreme. However, it is a time to look out for new upcoming fall regulations and reserved hunt applications. There is still an abundance of summertime stories, photographs and fun to be had even in the extreme heat of the summer. Wildlife babies are still ever-present. They have not learned to be afraid of human activity as their parents have and provide great opportunities to photos. Flowers can still be blooming which provides a variety of butterflies, insects and other pollinators.

I mentioned in the last issue of *The Blade* to take time to be a mentor. Grab some kids, befriend a new family or neighbor and share the outdoors. Use them for an article. Seeing the excitement through the eyes of a kid or newcomer can be like opening a gift on Christmas morning. I remember the excitement of seeing a deer or turkey, a snake or holding a frog in my hand. Maybe that is why I chose the profession which I have for so long. I have always hoped that I never lose the excitement for the outdoors. Not just hunting or fishing, but the outdoors entirely.



I recently had a large hairy bot fly land on my hand. Yes, you read it right! I hoped it was not trying to lay any eggs, but I was enthralled by the ugly little creature for a lot longer than my wife would have liked. She was sort of disgusted with the thought and look of it. Of course, she insisted that I wash my hands more than once before coming into the house. I realized that sometimes we just look and talk about the big things in life, but it is often the little things that can put a bigger smile on our faces. I tried very hard to get my kids involved with the fly but there are some things that go way beyond anyone's comfort level.

I hope the summer is going well for all. Our state parks are very busy with new visitors again this summer and I hope you take time to appreciate the small, overlooked aspects of our outdoors, too. Thanks for reading and enjoy this issue of *The Blade*!

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 19.**

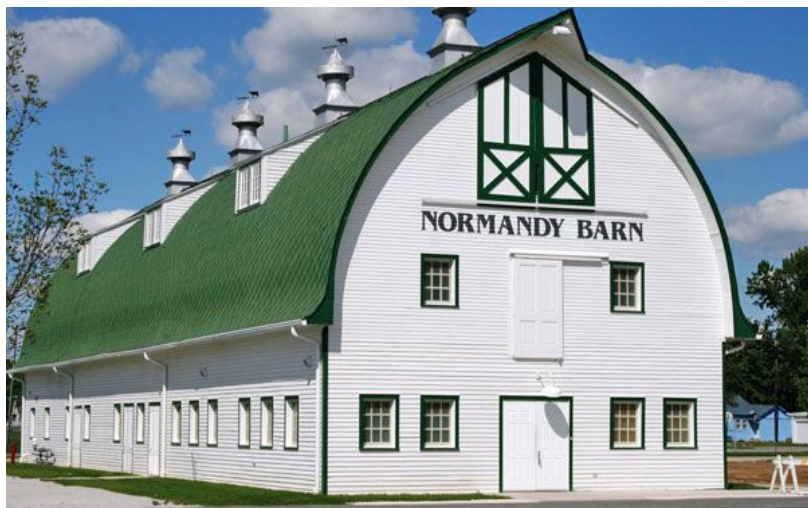
**Memorial to Deceased
HOW Members
Those Who Have Gone Before Us:**

Jack Alkire – HOW President 1979
Bill Beeman – Executive Director Emeritus
 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
Larry Crecelius – HOW President 2003
 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
Phil Seng	2022

HOW Conference Announcement



2024 HOW Conference Site, Conference Dates Chosen

We are pleased to announce that the 2024 HOW Conference will once again be held in Indianapolis, in conjunction with the start of the Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show at the state fairgrounds. The conference will take place on the weekend of February 16-17, 2024, with the main meeting occurring on Saturday, February 17.

Believe it or not, it has already been four years since we paired the HOW Conference with the Indy BS&T Show, and the time has come to do it again!

HOW members will meet at the Normandy Barn next February at the start of our 2024 conference. Make plans now to attend!

The annual meeting will take place at the historic Normandy Barn at the north end of the fairgrounds property, and we will have parking passes for each HOW member registered for the conference so they can get into the fairgrounds. There will be parking available adjacent to the Normandy Barn, too.

Having the conference in February makes it very convenient for HOW members to attend the conference and also go to the Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show. As all of the “old-timers” know, the HOW conference was held in February for many, many years. For all those who enjoy the spring conference, don't fret. The 2025 conference will be back in the springtime.

As usual, we will start the 2024 HOW Conference with our traditional HOW Fun Shoot on Friday afternoon, February 16 at the Indiana Gun Club. After the shoot, we hope to have a special Friday evening press party for all HOW members and spouses who are planning to attend the conference. More information will be forthcoming as the conference date gets closer.

Of course, all HOW members are encouraged to attend the Boat, Sport & Travel Show after the conference activities and throughout the entire show. Renfro Productions will provide media passes for HOW members which will be honored throughout the show.

As usual, 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. More details will be forthcoming in future editions of *The Blade*.

Whether you plan to attend the events on both Friday and Saturday or just the annual meeting on Saturday, the trip to the historic Indiana State Fairgrounds will definitely be worth it. So start making your plans now. **Don't miss the 2024 HOW conference!**

Save The Date!
Conference: February 16-17, 2024
Annual Meeting: February 17, 2024

Starting an Outdoor Website

by Kevin Paulson

I got started learning how to create websites by default in 2003 when I purchased an outfitting business in Idaho and Montana. We owned the domain GotElk, and we put together a very expensive website and blog. I had to get educated quickly. We created the blog in our website to be able to share tips, tricks, gear reviews and the story of how we were building our business. It was all cutting edge twenty years ago, and we learned fast. Know your audience and speak to them directly, and you can grow quickly.

In 2006, I lost my father and chose to re-center my life. I sold out my portion of the outfitting business and bought HuntingLife.com the next day. I liked writing and creating content a whole lot more than I liked saddling up horses at 4:00am and paying feed bills year round. I also wanted to be home more in the fall and around my kids and family. We started HuntingLife.com to be an outfitter directory and, of course, the blog. In 2009, we pivoted to become a much bigger, focused news website.

Building a website can be as complicated or as easy as you want it to be. The most important part of the process is writing great content that speaks to your readers. As outdoor writers, we all work hard on our articles, chapters and books to speak to our readers, and the same is true whether that article is published on our own website or in the pages of a newspaper, magazine or on social media.

I encourage every outdoor writer to have a website even if that website is just a business card or billboard site to share your resume, links to your work, a list of the articles or books you have written, and any awards you have. Show some photos to highlight who you are as a writer or content creator and share your social media accounts so that readers can find you and connect in a more meaningful way.

HuntingLife.com is more than the blog and outfitter directory we started out to be. Today we are a much more commercial website with about a third of our income coming in from direct sponsorship and the online digital magazine. The rest of our income comes in from affiliate marketing. Over the last year, I have given several talks about the value of affiliate marketing to writers and content creators. I have worked with several folks to help them to rebrand and build out their online websites. On our site we always look for more writers and contributors for our magazine and online content.

If I can help you, walk you through my process or if you need a team to help build out a site for you, we can help. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with questions at Kevin@HuntingLife.com. We are always looking for writers, and I have a strong network of other folks who are also looking for writers. Content creation is not going away, especially for human writers who can share a story and speak from the heart.

Seven steps to starting a WordPress website:

1. **Choose a domain name:** The domain name is the address of your website. Choose a name that is easy to remember and you know will speak to your readers.
 2. **Choose a hosting service:** A hosting service is where your website files are stored. Choose a hosting service that is reliable, fast and fits your budget. We like WPENGINE.com.
 3. **Install WordPress:** WordPress is a free content management system that will run your website. Install it on your hosting service.
 4. **Choose a WordPress theme:** A theme is the design of your website. Choose a theme that fits the style and branding of your outdoor website.
 5. **Install plugins:** Plugins add functionality to your website. Install plugins that will help you with search engine optimization, security, and social media sharing.
 6. **Create Content:** Start creating content for your website. Write articles and post photos and videos related to the outdoors to attract visitors.
 7. **Promote your website:** Promote your website on social media, forums, and other relevant websites.
- Starting a WordPress website requires a little initial effort, but with these steps, you can have a website up and running in no time.**

Kevin Paulson, **HuntingLife Media**

Phone: 202-744-5806, email: Kevin@HuntingLife.com

<https://HuntingLife.com>

Waterfalls and More in Northern Alabama

Story and photos by Tom Berg

On a recent trip to Alabama, I picked up a brochure titled: *Waterfalls of North Alabama*. The pamphlet advertised 13 local waterfalls, and who doesn't like waterfalls? I love waterfalls. So even though I was planning to do some fishing while I was in the northern part of the state, I knew I also wanted to see and explore some of these beautiful waterfalls. Luckily, the brochure identified several of these sites as being within an easy drive of where we were staying at Weiss Lake in the northeastern part of the state.

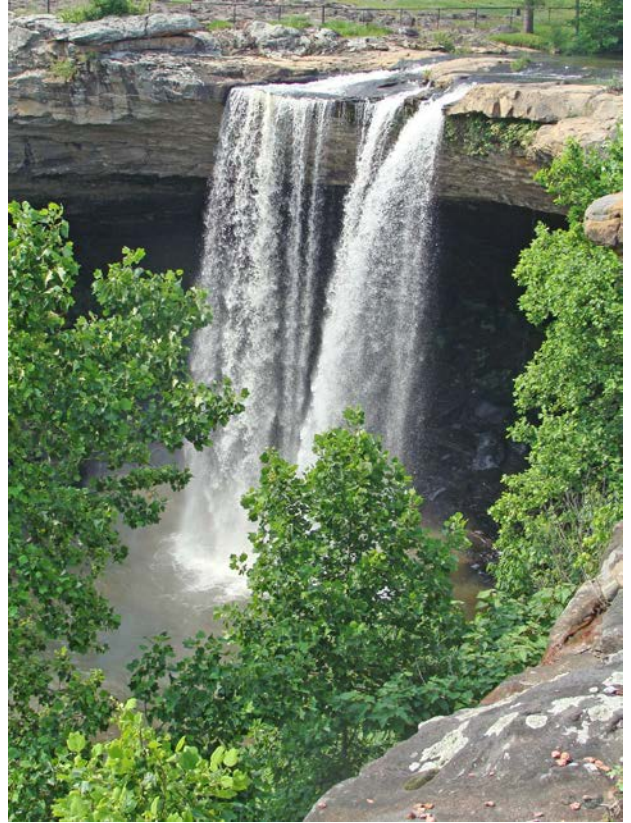
At first, I wondered why there were so many waterfalls in northern Alabama. A little research revealed that northern Alabama is actually at the extreme southern end of the Appalachian Mountains, and rivers and lakes abound in the area. That explains why this area is called the mountain lakes region of Alabama. It is also home to the Tennessee River – which has gouged out big valleys and steep mountain-sides over the eons. Smaller creeks and streams flowing into these valleys often create stunning waterfalls.

The first waterfall my wife Lori and I visited was Noccalula Falls inside Noccalula Falls Park and Campground (photo at right). This park is located just a couple of miles from the town of Gadsden and is easy to find. Parking and park access is free, too, so lots of people come to see it. When we visited it wasn't crowded at all, though.

Noccalula Falls itself is more than 90 feet tall, and it flows into the Black Creek Gorge. Kids were swimming in the plunge pool below the falls while we were there, but you wouldn't want to jump into



that pool from the top of the falls. It would be fatal, for sure. In fact, this waterfall is named for a Creek Indian princess named Noccalula. Legend has it that she jumped to her death from the top of the falls rather than being forced to marry someone that she didn't love. A bronze statue of Noccalula overlooks the falls today. Visit www.noccalulafallspark.com for more info.



The next waterfall we visited was High Falls near Geraldine, AL (see photo at left and photos on the following page). This large waterfall is located inside High Falls County Park and was definitely among our favorites. The waterfall itself is more than 35 feet tall and as much as 300 feet wide when its source, Town Creek, is swollen with rain. At the bottom of the falls is a large natural bridge that has been carved out by the crashing water of the falls over the years.

There is a modern pedestrian bridge that spans the creek gorge, allowing visitors to cross the creek and hike along the bank on the other side. People routinely walk out onto the wide stone creek bed, especially since it is usually only ankle deep in many places. Adventurous visitors walk out to the top of the falls and leap over the

(continued on next page)



falls to land in the plunge pool below, which is actually quite deep. Check out www.visitlookoutmountain.com and click on City & County Parks to learn more.

Another waterfall we visited was Pisgah Gorge Falls near Pisgah, AL. This is actually a set of three waterfalls, although the trailhead is somewhat hidden. A sign for Pisgah Civitan Park is located near a baseball field, and a hand-painted sign that says “Waterfalls” led us right to it. The trail to the falls is behind the ball field.



Little Bryant Creek flows through Pisgah Gorge and the waterfalls here are impressive. A hiking trail follows the rim of the gorge and allows excellent views of the gorge and the waterfalls. Be aware that the cliffs here are sheer and unprotected (no railings or fences), so watch small children to keep them from falling. Another point to remember – our visit was after a good amount of rain and the waterfalls were beautiful and full. We later read reports that during periods of dry weather these waterfalls dry up completely. So keep that in mind. Go to <https://alabamawaterfalls.com/alabama-waterfalls/pisgah-gorge-falls> for more information.



One of the more hidden waterfalls we saw was Congo Falls at the very small Congo Falls Park near Congo, AL. This waterfall is less than 15 tall, but it is very scenic and beautiful. There is a good-sized pool where people swim during the summer, and there is a small parking lot just a few yards away. Check out www.facebook.com/congofallspark for more information.

There are plenty of other waterfalls that we did not have time to see, too. And although waterfalls are beautiful and great for picturesque photos, there are lots of other fun things to do in the area, too. Lori and I had made reservations at a local glassblowing studio (Orbix Hot Glass) in Fort Payne, Alabama and arrived on the appointed afternoon

(continued on next page)

Tom Berg (above left) removes molten glass from the furnace. Instructor Eric from Orbix Hot Glass supervises.

to try our hand at making our own blown-glass bowls.

The folks at Orbix Hot Glass are true experts at their craft, and they helped us through every step of the glassblowing process. Working with molten glass that is 2,000 degrees or more requires skill and caution, and everyone at Orbix exhibited more than enough of both.

Lori and I each planned to make a bowl, so we chose the colors for our glass creations from a colorful pallet of multi-colored glass shards. Eric was our instructor, and he did all the prep work with the hot furnace and making sure the molten glass was hot enough. We used special tools (and our own lungs) to blow the glass to the right shape and “suck” it back to form a double-walled concave bowl.

Using wooden paddles and other wooden forms to help shape the hot glass was interesting and lots of fun. It was hot, too! Our glass bowls turned out beautiful and the entire experience is something we will never forget. Be sure to visit www.orbixhotglass.com for more info.



While you are in northern Alabama, check out some of the other great things to do in the area, too. The Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association maintains a nice website which has ideas for all sorts of cool places to visit and fun things to do during your visit (www.northalabama.org).

Besides waterfalls and glassblowing, there are many state and county parks nearby with excellent fishing, great hiking trails, birdwatching opportunities, spectacular underground caverns, water parks, mountain biking, boating and much more. And when you get hungry, don't forget about the North Alabama Barbecue Trail. We had some BBQ ribs that were out of this world. So head to northern Alabama on your next journey south. You will be glad you made the trip!

Above Right: Tom Berg adds colored glass shards to the molten glass for the bowl before putting it back in the furnace.
Above: A torch helped safely remove the glass bowl from the steel blowing pole once the main work was done.
Right: The finished products: two unique glass bowls that we helped make at Orbix Hot Glass in Fort Payne, Alabama.



What Does It Mean to be “Successful” as a Hunter?

Text and photos by Cindy Stites

There is an assumption by many that “success” means a notched deer tag, a limit of squirrels or ducks, a trophy elk, or a spring gobbler thrown over one’s shoulder. There is an even an assumption by others that the species you choose to pursue dictates whether you are seen as “successful” or not.

I am what some call an “adult onset hunter”. I started hunting eleven years ago, at the age of 36. I am a generalist; meaning I hunt a variety of species, including white-tailed deer, mule deer, squirrels, dove, turkey, and hopefully I’ll have another opportunity at an elk someday.

I have hunted in Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Illinois, Wisconsin, Texas, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and my home state of Indiana. I have taken multiple mule deer, whitetail, squirrels, dove, a handful of pheasant, and one very special bearded hen turkey.

While many may assume that last paragraph makes me a “successful” hunter, I would remind them about what the word “assume” can do to both of us. So let me help it all make sense. For me personally.....

Being “successful” as a hunter means I had quiet time to myself, enjoying the outdoors and the beautiful landscape.

Being “successful” as a hunter means I was fortunate enough to watch the woods wake up.

Being “successful” as a hunter means I took someone else out hunting who had never been before and I enjoyed it more than if I was the one hunting.

Being “successful” as a hunter means I watched wildlife move around me all day, within feet of where I sat on the ground, and they never knew I was there.

Being “successful” as a hunter means I chose to do the right thing, even when no one would ever know the difference.

Being “successful” as a hunter means reporting those who choose to do the wrong thing.

Being “successful” as a hunter means I advocated for wildlife conservation in conversations with strangers.

Being “successful” as a hunter means I volunteer my time to teach Hunter Education, so others can take to the field in a safe manner.

Being “successful” as a hunter means I pull the trigger only when my gut tells me, “that’s the one”.

Being “successful” as a hunter means when I say I’ll take ANYONE hunting, I mean it.

Being “successful” as a hunter means I chose to shoot a deer that was limping badly, because my heart told me to, not caring how old or how big it was.

Being “successful” as a hunter means I understand the heavy responsibility of ending the life of a living creature and respecting that animal through the entire process.

Being “successful” as a hunter means if I take a bad shot on an animal, I exhaust every option of finding it.

Being “successful” as a hunter means I respect the land and the landowner.

Being “successful” as a hunter means making sure I know I can retrieve the animal before I decide to shoot it.

Being “successful” as a hunter means respecting what other hunters deem as successful for themselves.

Being “successful” as a hunter means taking as much pride in hunting squirrels as in hunting deer or turkey.

Don’t ever let anyone tell you what your own version of success looks like. Chances are, they still haven’t figured it out for themselves.



Join Your Fellow HOW Members for a Forestry Field Day!

HOW member and Consulting Forester Perry Seitzinger will lead a Forestry Field Day tour at the JT Brickyard Timberland Evinger Tract in Owen County on Saturday, September 9, 2023. New HOW member Judi Brown is the coordinator. See below for more information. Advance registration is required.



Forestry Field Day

Register today for this field day!

The JT Brickyard Timberland Evinger Tract is located off of State Road 42 in northwest Owen County, right across the county lines from Clay and Putnam Counties.

Join Consultant Forester Perry Seitzinger as he leads this morning tour showcasing the property history and their high quality oak management techniques.

The tour includes a recently harvested area, forestry best management practices, tree plantation management, and regeneration openings.

Tour stops will be on the log landings, accessible by pick up trucks on the logging road. Carpooling is encouraged. The tour includes short walks into the forest.

Sponsored by:



**JT
Brickyard
Timberland
LLC**



Owen, Clay and
Putnam County
Soil & Water
Conservation
Districts

**JT Brickyard
Timberland Properties**
10028 Lackey Road, Poland IN

Located in NW Owen County
Follow signs off of SR 42.

**Saturday,
September 9, 2023**

8 AM to 1 PM EDT

Onsite Registration
Begins at 8 AM

Forestry Tour: 8:30 to 11:30

Lunch Provided: 11:45 to 1 PM

\$5.00 Fee

Registration:

[https://tinyurl.com/
ForestryFieldDay](https://tinyurl.com/ForestryFieldDay)



Scan with your phone's
camera to open
registration link

Let the Sun Shine In - Indiana

Judi Brown, Coordinator

812-631-4904

JBrown@abcbirds.org

Having trouble registering? Call
Judi Brown for assistance!

Registrations due by Sept. 8



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 Dave Hoffman:

HOW member Dave Hoffman enjoys spending time in warmer climates during the cold weather months, and last year was no exception. While birding in southeastern Arizona last winter, Hoffman's go-to spot was the pine-oak forests of Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains. This area is the home of over 250 bird species. Many birds found in that area have a limited home range but can be commonly seen there.

One such example is the **Townsend's Warbler** (*Dendroica townsendi*) a species usually seen during migration in Arizona but some can also be seen in the winter. "Luckily, one came to a feeder and stayed long enough for a photo while I was there," said Hoffman,



who added the warbler to his Life List.



This handsome little bird follows the traditional warbler dress code very well: black, white and eye-catching yellow. However, this warbler's black crown and throat, and distinctive black auriculars, or cheek patches, are surrounded by bright yellow making it easy to recognize.

Wintering in Central and South America, and in a narrow band along the Pacific coast, it spends its summers in the Pacific northwest of Canada and northward to Alaska where it is commonly found in

parks and gardens.

At the same feeder where he photographed the warbler, he was able to get photos of both sexes of the **Hepatic Tanager** (*Piranga flava*) on the same day. "You can also see a good example of sexual dimorphism in the photos (above and right)," said Hoffman. Male tanagers are orange-red and females are primarily yellow-green in color. "However, the western tanager's coloration goes to his head so to speak," continued Hoffman. The hepatic's color is more a 'red brick' hue, unlike the flaming red of the familiar scarlet tanager found here in Indiana.



"Arizona and New Mexico are the only two states in the USA where you are likely to see a hepatic tanager," said Hoffman, "but its range extends all the way down to Argentina."



Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors



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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 Bill Keaton:

HOW Legal Advisor Bill Keaton and his wife Rita really enjoy watching hummingbirds fly around their yard and dart to and fro around their hummingbird feeders. They like it so much, in fact, that they have set up several feeders for the hummingbirds. Last summer they had a lot of **Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds** (*Archilochus colubris*) visiting their property, but this year the numbers are absolutely crazy!

“We have so many hummingbirds this year that they are eating us out of house and home,” said Keaton. “The amount they eat has slowly increased all summer as have the number of birds we see.”

“It is impossible to get an accurate count of the hummingbirds because we have six large feeders placed around the house and on windows,” he continued. “Each feeder always seems to have several birds around it. At a minimum, I would guess there are twenty to thirty birds that live around the house. As of this writing (mid-August), we are feeding a gallon of sugar water every day! That equates to eight cups of sugar each and every day. We are now buying our sugar in large 25-pound bags.”



Here are just two of the Keaton's hummingbird feeders. If you look closely, you will see 11 or 12 hummingbirds feeding and vying for position at the feeders. Bill Keaton photo.

“The time that we see the most hummingbirds concentrated around the feeders is after we have had steady moderate rain for a sustained period. I think the birds seek shelter in the trees, and when the rain slacks off, they all make a beeline for the feeders.”



Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

Report from Troy McCormick:

HOW Past President Troy McCormick made a recent trip to Ireland, and as usual, he and his wife Lori incorporated some birding into their vacation itinerary. He said he really enjoyed seeing the birds of the Emerald Isle. Here is his report:

“The advantage of renting a car in Northern Ireland instead of being on a group tour,” remarked McCormick, “is that you can go anywhere you want and stay as long as it takes to get the right photo. And many of the places we visited allowed for some great bird watching, especially Rathlin Island.”



“Rathlin Island has a large nesting colony on the steep slopes of the ocean-facing side of the L-shaped, 3,500-acre island.

One day we joined a small charter boat that was heading out to see the cliffs and seabirds. We thoroughly enjoyed watching thousands of **Atlantic Puffins** (*Fratercula arctica*), Kittiwakes, Guillemots, and Razorbills on the rocky cliffs, flying past the boat, and fishing in the ocean waters around us.” An Atlantic puffin is shown in flight above.



“Back on land, we found lots of dapper **Black-Headed Gulls**

(*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) in large flocks by Carrickfergus Castle (gull seen above), **Eurasian Magpies** (*Pica pica*) on the manicured lawn of Belfast Castle (shown at left), and **European Robins** (*Erithacus rubecula*) in a cemetery in Lurgan. The robin can be seen below. The birds were just as beautiful as the scenery we found on the lovely Emerald Isle.”

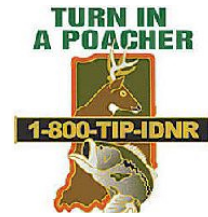
HOW members are encouraged to send their interesting bird photos to newsletter editor and bird enthusiast Tom Berg via email (thomas.berg@comcast.net) for use in future editions of the “Interesting Bird Sightings” page. Don’t worry, it does not need to be a rare bird. Your fellow HOW members would love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

Did you take a cool bird photo while exploring afield recently? Did you see the bird in your back yard? Were you traveling far from home? Be sure to send the photo in for others to enjoy!





Hoosier Outdoor Writers Turn in a Poacher/Polluter Writing Contest Official 2023 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 and the hotline. This year prizes are **\$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 compelling story that demonstrates how TIP can help conserve or protect fish and wildlife for the people of Indiana.
- Are published in paid publications.

To enter, submit an electronic copy of an article published between **January 1, 2023** and **December 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 January 15, 2024. NOTE: The publish dates and deadline were adjusted since the 2024 HOW Conference will be in February.

What is TIP?

Turn in a Poacher and Polluter, 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. Pollution kills Indiana's valuable fish and wildlife resources and harms habitat.

Citizens can help stop poachers and polluters in two ways. If you see, hear or learn about a poacher, pollution that results in the death of fish and wildlife, or any other fish and wildlife violation:

- Call 1-800-TIP-IDNR
- Submit a TIP online at www.tip.IN.gov

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>

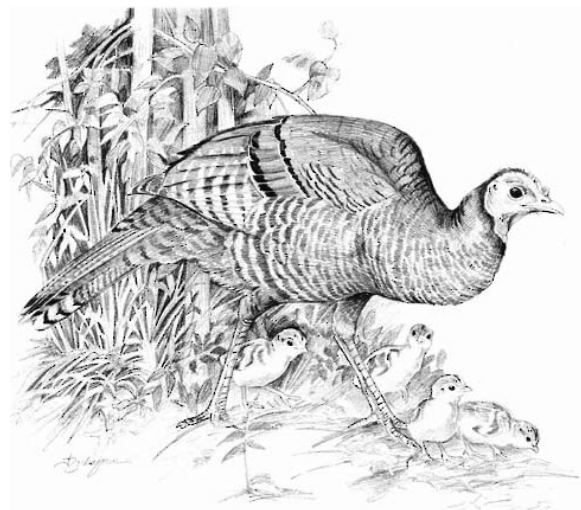
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

For immediate release: July 3, 2023

Share Your Observations of Wild Turkey Hens and Their Young with DNR

You can help the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) learn more about the state's wild turkey population by sharing observations of hens with and without poults (i.e., young turkeys) through August 31.

Each summer, DNR personnel and community members from across Indiana conduct brood surveys, counting hens and poults to estimate how many young turkeys live through the summer. Summer brood survival is one of the primary factors influencing wild turkey population trends in various regions of the state and informs the DNR's wild turkey management.

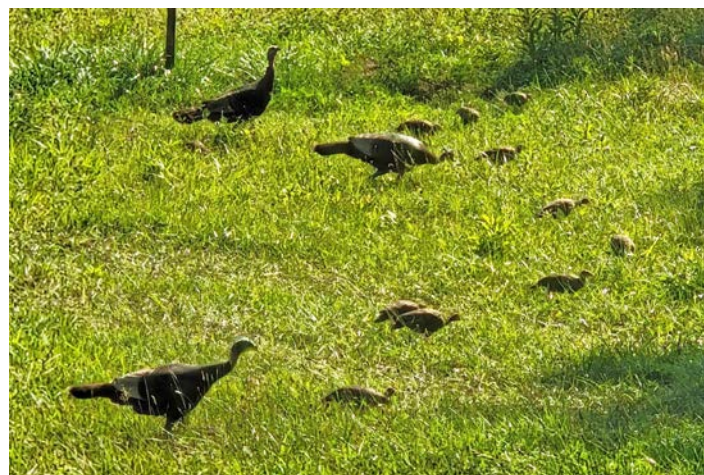


This year, the DNR hopes to collect 3,000 reports from across the state with at least 25 reports per county. Observations can be shared at on.IN.gov/turkeybrood. No password is needed. This link provides survey instructions, an illustrative guide to turkey identification, and results of previous brood surveys.

For more information about wild turkey biology and Indiana DNR's management of the species, please be sure to visit on.IN.gov/turkey.

Media contact:

Scott Johnson, wildlife science supervisor,
DNR Fish & Wildlife,
Phone: 812-287-8302,
Email: sjohnson@dnr.IN.gov.



Hen turkeys with young poults. Photo by Bill Keaton.

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

For immediate release: July 31, 2023

Researchers Discover Young Hellbender in Blue River

Biologists with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Purdue University recently documented a very young hellbender salamander, a gilled larva, in the Blue River while conducting routine surveys in south-central Indiana. This discovery is significant because over the past three to four decades, only adult hellbenders have been documented in the Blue River. The presence of a young salamander suggests that conservation efforts and rearing programs are accomplishing their goals for the recovery of this endangered species.



The hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*) is a large, fully aquatic salamander. Hellbenders do not reach sexual maturity until they are 7-8 years old and require specific habitats to thrive and reproduce. Their decline statewide has been documented as far back as the early-to-mid 1900s as a result of habitat loss and poor water quality. Hellbenders play an important role in aquatic ecosystems and are indicators of clean water.

“Finding hellbender larvae is a huge benchmark of the program’s success,” said DNR’s Nate Engbrecht, the state herpetologist. “It tells us that there has been successful breeding, hatching, and recruitment in the wild. It’s a wonderful sign that captive-reared and released hellbenders are doing what we want them to do at this site.”

The Indiana Hellbender Partnership is a collaboration between the Indiana DNR and Purdue University with funding support from the Indiana DNR Nongame Wildlife Fund, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and partners in local governments, universities, organizations, and zoos that are working to recover the state-endangered hellbender. Developed over 15 years, the Indiana Hellbender Partnership is the largest and most comprehensive group working to recover an imperiled amphibian in Indiana.

Since 2017, Purdue University’s *Help the Hellbender Lab* and its conservation partners have reared and released nearly 500 juvenile hellbenders into the Blue River. Lab director Rod Williams says, “This finding, the result of nearly two decades of collective effort, signifies a milestone for our conservation program. While we have much left to do, we have evidence our approach is working.”

In the event anglers accidentally hook a hellbender, they are reminded to cut the line and let the salamander go unharmed.

Media contact:

Nate Engbrecht, state herpetologist, DNR Fish & Wildlife,
phone: 812-334-1137, email: nengbrecht@dnr.IN.gov.



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

For immediate release: August 16, 2023

LARE Grants to Benefit 17 Lake and Stream Projects

Indiana Department of Natural Resources Director Dan Bortner announced that organizations in 11 Indiana counties will receive \$1,143,000 in grants to fund 17 lake and river or stream projects through the DNR Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) program.

“Keeping Indiana’s waterways clean and protecting our valued natural resources is a mission central to our work at DNR,” Bortner said. “We’re thankful for Hoosier boaters who have helped us fund more than \$22 million of important conservation of Indiana’s lakes and streams over the last two decades through the LARE program. The impact is felt now and will continue to make a difference for generations to come.”

The grants are funded through the LARE fee paid annually by boat owners when they register their crafts with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. This user funded program benefits boaters all over the state. The grants allow for the completion of projects that would be difficult for local organizations to fund on their own. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis, and local sponsors share at least 20% of the cost.

This round of grant-funded projects will benefit seven lakes and 11 rivers and streams. Many of the projects aim to improve water quality by reducing sediment and nutrient inputs. Improved water quality helps fish and wildlife populations and improves recreational opportunities.

This year, LARE partnered with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the city of Fort Wayne, Vigo County, and The Nature Conservancy to fund three dam removal projects. These projects will result in more than 1,030 miles of open streams and rivers, allowing for free passage of fish, aquatic organisms, and recreational users such as paddlers.

The projects, listed by water body, county, project type, and grant award, can be found at lare.dnr.IN.gov.



Media contact: Doug Nusbaum, LARE Restoration Biologist, Division of Fish & Wildlife, phone: 260-213-4589, email: dnusbaum@dnr.IN.gov.

HOW Member News

Troy McCormick Visits the Giant's Causeway

HOW Past-President Troy McCormick's recent European trip was not all about birding (see page 14). He also visited some very famous outdoor sites. He describes one of those very cool sites below:

"On my recent trip to Northern Ireland with my wife Lori, we made the **Giant's Causeway** a definite stop on our drive along the coastline," said McCormick. "Made up of 40,000 interlocking columns of basalt pushed up from a volcanic fissure eruption 50+ million years ago, the now-eroding stone is recognized and protected as a UNESCO World Heritage Site."

"The basalt columns look like the gigantic stepping stones of a roadway leading into the ocean," he continued. "With over 1 million visitors per year, it was one of the busiest places we visited. But if you are a fan of geology like I am, it is well worth the time and effort. We even opted to pay the extra two British Pounds each to take the bus down to the geologic wonder, and more importantly, ride the bus back up the steep slope to the visitor center."



"The legend of the site tells of the Scottish giant Benandonner challenging the Irish giant Fionn Mac Cumhaill (Fin MacCool) to a fight. Fionn accepted the challenge and built the stone causeway across the North Channel so the two could meet. In a bizarre trick, Fionn disguised himself as a baby. When the Scottish giant Benandonner saw him, he became frightened of how big the adult giants in Ireland must be since the babies were so large. So Benandonner ran home, destroying the causeway behind him."



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Hoffman Knows Salmon is “King” in Lake Michigan

HOW member Dave Hoffman has been fishing in Alaska and Canada many times, but in the past few years he has decided to keep his fishing travel plans a little closer to home. One of his new favorite places to fish are the waters of Lake Michigan near Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. The quarry? King salmon!

Hoffman always books his trips with local Sturgeon Bay guide Capt. Alex Tamble, and this year was no exception. “This summer we are seeing the best harvest on our boat since 2012,” said Tamble, who operates Sturgeon Bay Outdoors. “The water temperature in the Sturgeon Bay area set up perfectly for salmon fishing this year, which helped us as well.”

“Instead of trolling near the popular Bank Reef amongst a flotilla of small boats in the shallows, we avoided the crowd and fished in waters between 140-180 feet,” said Hoffman. “We found big king (chinook) salmon suspended higher in the water



column around 40-80 feet enjoying the warmer water.”

Hoffman’s group also landed a few impressive rainbow trout (steelhead) after epic battles that resulted in cramped fingers, sore shoulders and big smiles. “Captain Alex had spent the winter outfitting a Viking 43-foot Express, which has a 16’ beam,” reported Hoffman. “That was great news for those of us who are always asked how many times we have fallen since our last doctor appointment. We had plenty of room to maneuver safely while trying to reel in our limit of those speedy chrome rockets, which we accomplished.”

“The Canadian northwoods wasn’t the only thing on fire this spring and summer,” said Hoffman. “The king salmon fishing on Lake Michigan was just as hot.”

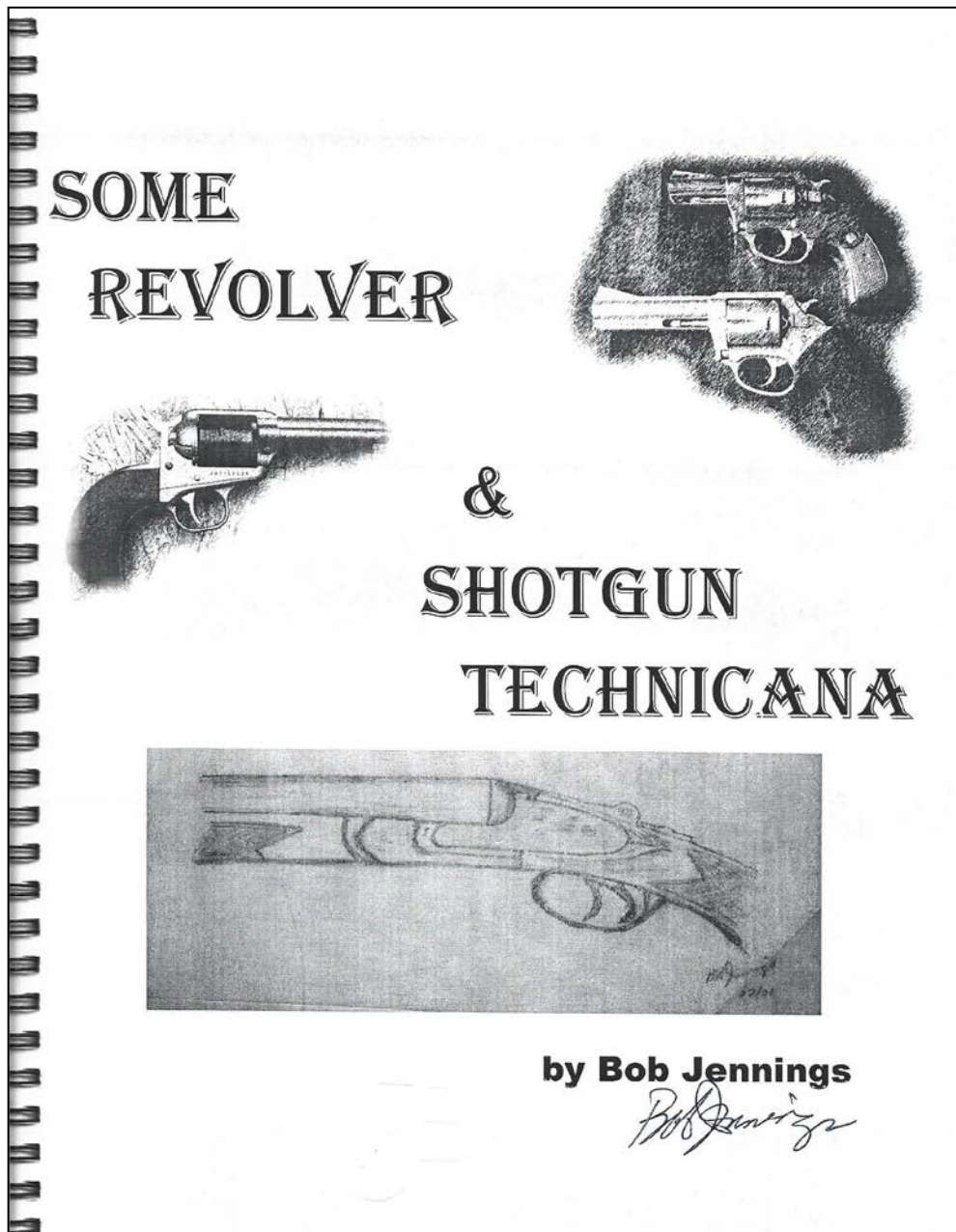
Dave Hoffman (above) hefts a fine Lake Michigan king salmon. Above right: A great day’s catch on the water!

Jennings' New Booklet Explores Technical Aspects of Revolvers and Shotguns

HOW member Bob Jennings is a real firearms aficionado, and he recently wrote a new publication that discusses some of the finer points of selected revolvers and shotguns in his collection. The spiral-bound publication is titled: *Some Revolver & Shotgun Technicana*.

The booklet is an evaluation of certain revolvers, including Charter Arms Pug and Target Bulldogs, and Ruger Wranglers and the Super Wrangler. It also talks about shotgun balance and discusses a closely matched pair of single barrel trap guns. It is 30 pages long with plenty of photos.

Jennings is offering the booklet to HOW members for \$12, autographed and post-paid. For those interested, he can be contacted by email at jenningsr500@gmail.com.



Hoffman Family Enjoys Wildlife Views Right Outside Their Dining Room Window

HOW member Dave Hoffman recently moved from his longtime home in Camby, Indiana. Now he and his wife Judy live in Brownsburg, and their new location seems to be abundant with wildlife. Here is a report from Dave from mid-August:

“One morning a week ago I shot this photo from our dining room window,” he said. “What a surprise! It looks like a mother bobcat and her two cubs. I was shocked to see them and was surprised I was able to get a few shots with my camera.”



“I did capture a trailcam photo of a bobcat at our old house a while ago, and I got a few photos of a bobcat mother and cub in Florida a couple years ago. But this one was special.”

“Then about a week later we shot the following photo from our dining room door. This photo was taken by Judy with her cell phone! I told our son and daughter these sightings confirmed that they’d picked the perfect location to build our new home!”



Lunsford Wins “Best of Show” Award at RCAA Show in Terre Haute

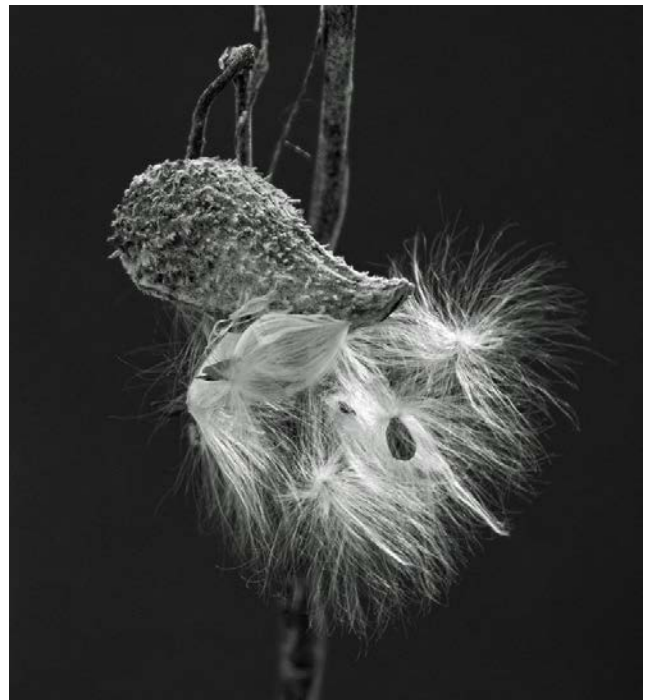


HOW board member Mike Lunsford is an award-winning nature photographer, and he recently garnered another award to add to his collection. His photography was honored at the 15th Annual River City Art Association's Juried Exhibition on August 4 at First Financial Plaza in downtown Terre Haute.



Lunsford’s black-and-white photograph, titled "Winter's Past," was chosen as "Best of Show" by jurist Tanmaya Bingham, the Gallery Director at Indiana State University. Bingham noted that she chose Lunsford's work for its “lovely texture and composition. The high contrast between foreground and background,” she added, “exemplifies the combination of creativity with technique and emotion.”

Lunsford took the photo of brittle milkweed near his pond late in the winter two years ago during February, and says, “I couldn’t believe one of my photos was chosen from a field that included paintings, drawings, etchings, and



mixed media by such outstanding artists.”

Lunsford’s work was chosen from among 78 works of art submitted by a diverse group of artists and photographers from Indiana and Illinois.

Congratulations, Mike!

Above Left: HOW's Mike Lunsford poses his Best of Show medallion and award-winning photograph at the River City Art Association's Juried Exhibition in Terre Haute. **Above Right:** Lunsford's photo "Winter's Past". Photo of Mike Lunsford by the River City Art Association.

Mike Berg Heads West for Amazing Sturgeon Fishing

HOW member Mike Berg made a trip out west in July in search of sturgeon – and other fish. His main target was the oversized white sturgeon, and he set his sights on the famed Columbia River near Astoria, Oregon. His trip did not disappoint!

Berg got on a charter boat with three other anglers, and they headed for the mouth of the Columbia River. “We used a strange-looking shrimp for bait,” said Berg. “They were either called grass shrimp or sand shrimp. We fished on the bottom and waited for the telltale light tapping that told us a sturgeon was nibbling on the shrimp. That’s when we set the hook and held on.”

Surprisingly, these sturgeon were expert jumpers once hooked. Berg reported that at least half of the sturgeon they hooked jumped clear out of the water while the angler was trying to reel them in. When you are talking about fish that are 5-8 feet long, having one jump clear of the water is pretty memorable! One of the hooked sturgeon jumped three times.



HOW member Mike Berg poses with a large white sturgeon he caught from the Columbia River in July. This prehistoric-looking fish was quickly released after the photo was taken. Photo courtesy of Mike Berg.

Everyone on the boat caught multiple sturgeon. In fact, nearly 50 sturgeon were caught that day! Almost all of the sturgeon hooked were white sturgeon; only one green sturgeon was caught, and Mike Berg was excited that he was the lucky one who caught it. Green sturgeon cannot be removed from the

West Coast Sturgeon Fishing (continued)

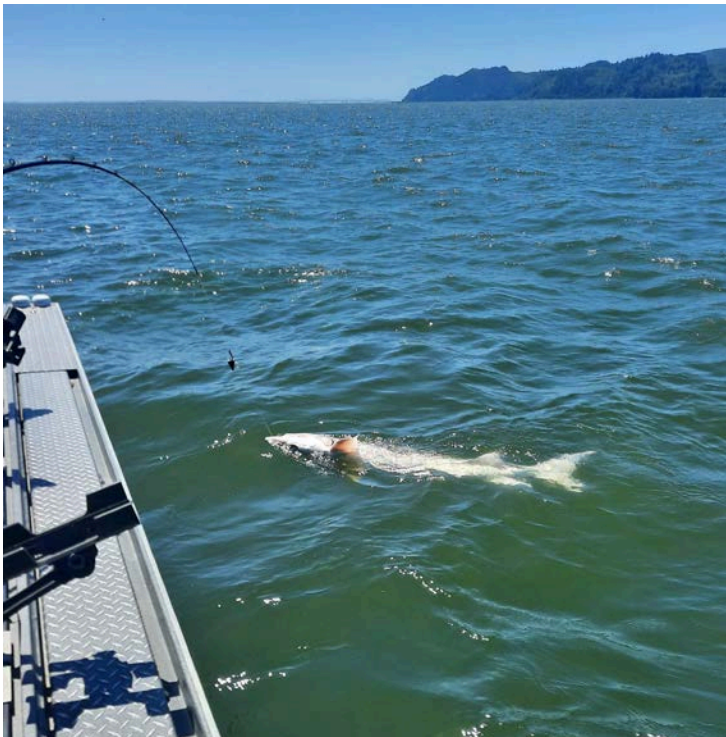
water since they are a threatened species and are protected. The charter captain allowed Berg to bring his green sturgeon boatside, but then it had to be quickly released.

There are lots of regulations for the white sturgeon, as well, including slot limits and restrictions for bringing large sturgeon into the boat. In July, though, all sturgeon fishing there is catch-and-release anyway.

Berg caught a total of 11 sturgeon, and the largest one he brought in the boat was 68 inches long. He reported that he also caught larger fish measuring 72, 73 and 76 inches, but they were too large to be brought into the boat legally. He was able to get approximate measurements at the side of the boat while those fish were still in the water.



Above: Mike Berg was able to hook and land a rare green sturgeon while fishing the Columbia River. Green sturgeon can be identified by a prominent green stripe running down the center of their belly, which is absent on white sturgeon. **Below:** Another good-sized white sturgeon comes to the boat after a spirited fight at the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon. Photos on this page by/courtesy of Mike Berg.



Berg said that near the end of the trip, he and two of the other anglers hooked three separate white sturgeon at the same time, and they had a triple-header going. That must have been fun!

Berg's fish came in first, followed by the fish being fought by one of the other anglers. The third sturgeon turned out to be an eight foot long behemoth, and it took considerably longer to land. This was the fish that leaped clear of the water three times, too. Once it was at the side of the boat, it was photographed and promptly released, too.

What a trip! Many fishermen search for their first sturgeon for years before they catch one. It looks like the Columbia River in Oregon is the go-to place for excellent sturgeon fishing, and July is prime time!

Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors

Milbert's Tortoiseshell Butterflies Like Woodlands and Wetlands



Close-up



Original



The "What is it?" photo from the last issue was a lot harder than usual, since it was correctly identified by only four (4) HOW members. Phil Cox, Alan Garbers, Ken Keffer and Mike Berg were all able to identify it.

When we drew a name at random for the **Church Tackle** fillet knife, Ken Keffer was the lucky winner. Congratulations, Ken! We have the prize and we will send it directly to you.

As can be seen in the photo above, the mystery creature for this issue was a Milbert's tortoiseshell butterfly (*Aglais milberti*). This is the only species of the *Aglais* genus in North America, and the butterfly is indeed very distinctive-looking. The orange and yellow bands along the outer edges of its wings and the orange and black "eye spots" on its upper wings are hard to forget.

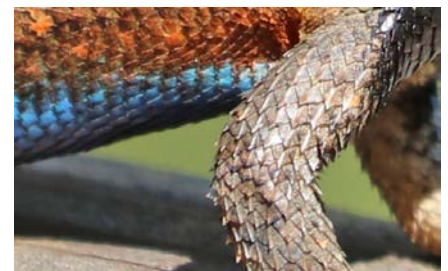
The Milbert's tortoiseshell has a wingspan of only 1-1/2 to 2 inches, so it is not a very large butterfly at all. It prefers fairly wet habitats, such as marshes, lakeshores and woodlands near water. Adults typically only live for week and a half, so they have to move fast to find a mate and reproduce. When females lay their eggs, they look for nettle plants, especially stinging nettle. Nettle leaves are the preferred food for the tortoiseshell caterpillars. Adults feed on nectar from many flowers, but favorites include milkweed, goldenrod, thistle and lilac bushes. They also feed on rotting fruit, tree sap and even animal dung.

Unfortunately, we have not yet been able to secure a contest sponsor for this issue, at least not by press time. If we are able to get a sponsor before the end of the contest, a mass email will go out to the HOW membership to let everyone know. If not, everyone that guesses correctly can simply enjoy the fact that they came up with the right answer! See below for more information and for the next mystery photo.

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 in southern Indiana. If you live in that part of the state you might even see it in your own back yard. Does it look familiar? Have you ever seen this color pattern when spending time outdoors?

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 will have to identify the exact species. If you think it's a species of fish, for example, go ahead and guess "largemouth bass" (of course, it's not a bass). 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 (if we get a prize – see below).



As mentioned above, we do not yet have a corporate sponsor for this issue's "What Is It?" contest. But don't fret. We are still actively looking for sponsors and we will let you know if we are successful in securing one. In the meantime, check out the photo above and take a guess as to its identity. If multiple people guess correctly, we'll still draw a winner at random from the correct entries and crown a "virtual" winner! 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.

Pro-Cure Bait Scents Help Anglers Catch More Fish

Salem, OR – At Pro-Cure, our number one goal is to produce products that truly help anglers catch more fish. We manufacture the world's finest bait scents, all made from real whole fresh bait. Our salmon egg cures and bait brines are legendary for their fish catching performances. Our series of Bad Azz Bait Dyes are truly changing how serious anglers fish brined bait fish.

For 30 years, we have catered to the needs of countless fishing guides, lodges and charter operations for one major reason: Pro-Cure Products consistently catch them more fish where other brands do not. Only Pro-Cure makes their scents from real whole fresh bait, and this makes a huge difference over scents that are formulated chemically in labs. Then we enhance all of our scents with powerful blends of exotic amino acids and bite stimulants to bring you the most effective scents ever offered.

So whether you are looking for scents that will help you catch more fish, or you need egg cures, bait brines or dyes, remember that all Pro-Cure products come with a complete money back guarantee that even covers reasonable return postage. We want you to know that if you have never fished with a Pro-Cure product and are thinking about trying them, you've got absolutely nothing to lose – but a whole lot to gain.

The Super Gel display to the right is only one of Pro-Cure's many products. Check out www.pro-cure.com for all of their other products.

**REAL BAIT
MADE IN THE USA
PROVEN RESULTS**

Media Contact:

Please contact the main Salem Pro-Cure office for more info. They can be reached by phone: 503-363-1037 or via email at: office@pro-cure.com.

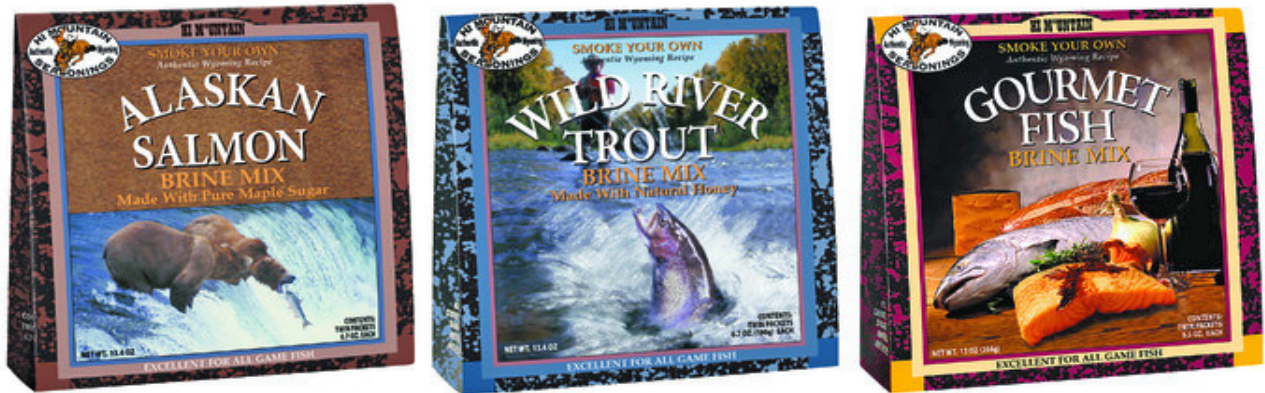


HOW Supporting Member News

Hi Mountain Seasonings Fish Brines Add Flavor and Prevent Drying of Your Fish

Riverton, WY (Aug. 15, 2023) – Fish, while a popular and a healthy meal choice, can be delicate and can easily dry out if over cooked. Using one of Hi Mountain Seasonings carefully crafted brines before baking, smoking or grilling can alleviate that problem. These brines not only add great flavor to the fish, but add moisture making them easier to cook and not stick to the pan or grill.

Hi Mountain Seasonings offers three easy to use, uniquely different fish brines that can be used to brine any species of



fresh or saltwater fish: Alaskan Salmon Brine with Pure Maple Sugar, Wild River Trout with Natural Honey and Gourmet Fish Brine. The company also offers a Game & Poultry Brine and a Brown Sugar Brine. Each brine has its own unique flavor and contains two packets of mix that make one gallon of brine each. Each has a suggested retail price of \$9.99.

So, go grab your pole or head to your closest fish market and prepare some mouthwatering, tender gourmet fish for yourself, friends and family. It is easy with Hi Mountain Seasonings brines. The Mayonnaise-Grilled Fish Fillets recipe below is taken directly off the Hi Mountain Seasonings' website, www.himtnjerky.com. You will also find dozens of other free recipes for wild game, fish, weekend meals, quick and easy weekday dinners, breakfasts and side dishes, as well as tips and techniques for smoking and brining, sausage and jerky making, and much more. Hi Mountain Seasonings Gourmet Fish Western Style Seasoning and Wild River Trout Brine can be purchased directly from the website, as well as at retailers nationwide.

Mayonnaise-Grilled Fish Fillets (makes 4-6 servings)

Ingredients:

- 1-1/2 teaspoons Hi Mountain Gourmet Fish Western Style Seasoning
- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1-1/2 pounds skinless walleye or other freshwater fish fillets brined using Hi Mountain Wild River Trout Brine

Directions:

1. In medium mixing bowl, blend Gourmet Fish Seasoning and mayonnaise. Coat fish well on all sides with mayonnaise mixture.
2. Place in grill basket. Grill 10 minutes per inch of thickness; if fillets are over 1/2 inch thick, turn once halfway through cooking time and coat with additional mayonnaise mixture.



About Hi Mountain Seasonings:

Located in the heart of Wyoming, Hi Mountain Seasonings was founded in 1991 and is America's premier manufacturer of kits for homemade jerky and sausage. Hi Mountain Seasonings has successfully captured distinct, traditional Western flavors in its jerky cure & seasonings; Western-style seasonings; bacon cures; snackin' stick kits, dressings & dips; and more. The company also offers field dressing, prep and cooking tools. For additional info, visit www.himtnjerky.com.

Media Contact: Karen Lutto, Hunter Outdoor Communications, Phone: 210-451-9113 (office), 804-539-6699 (cell), Email: karen@hunteroc.com. HOC Website: www.hunteroc.com.

HOW Supporting Member News



HOW Supporting Members Win Awards at 2023 ICAST Show



Orlando, FL: The 2023 ICAST show (International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades) held in Florida from July 11-14 was another great one, showcasing the products of many of the premier companies in the fishing tackle industry. More than 13,300 media and industry representatives from the global sportfishing industry attended the show to see the latest innovations in fishing gear, tackle, accessories and apparel. This year, 633 exhibitors entered more than 1,000 new products into the show's revered New Product Showcase for a chance to be recognized with a "Best of Category" honor. A total of 37 category winners took home a prestigious prize as the top product in their class.

Just like last year, many of the top new product awards were won by our innovative **HOW Supporting Members**. Here is the list of *Best of Category* winners from our corporate members:

Terminal Tackle

[Rapala](#)

VMC Swingin' Ned Rig Jig

Contact: [Stephen Dupont](#) (Pocket Hercules)



Freshwater Hard Lure

[Z-Man Fishing Products](#)

ChatterBait Elite EVO

Contact: [Cory Schmidt](#)



Saltwater Soft Lure

[Z-Man Fishing Products](#)

Mulletron LT SwimBait

Contact: [Cory Schmidt](#)



Saltwater Hard Lure

[L&S Bait Company](#)

MirrOlure The Duke Dog

Contact: [Eric Bachnik](#)



Freshwater Rod

[St. Croix Rod](#)

Mojo Bass Rod Trigon

Contact: [Josh Lantz](#)



Saltwater Reel

[Daiwa](#)

Seapower 1200 Reel

Contact: [Noel Vick](#) (Traditions Media)



For more information on **ICAST** and each of the category winners, check out the ICAST website: www.icastfishing.org.

HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Al's Goldfish Company - www.alsgoldfish.com
Ankor Fishing Gear - www.ankorfishing.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
BoatUS - www.boatus.com
BOLT Locks - www.boltlock.com
BPI Outdoors - www.BPIguns.com
Caldwell - www.caldwellshooting.com
Cauldryn - www.cauldryn.com
Church Tackle Company - www.churchtackle.com
Cocoons Eyewear - www.cocoonseyewear.com
Daisy Outdoor Products - www.daisy.com
Daiwa - www.daiwa.com
Dardevle by Eppinger - www.dardevle.com
Ducks Unlimited - www.ducks.org
Egret Baits - www.egretbaits.com
Falcon Guides - www.falconguides.com
Finn Tackle Company - www.finnspoons.com
Flying Fisherman - www.flyingfisherman.com
Hawke Sport Optics - www.hawkeoptics.com
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - www.henryUSA.com
HHA Sports - www.HHASports.com
Hi Mountain Seasonings - www.himtnjerky.com
Hoosier Trapper Supply -
www.hoosiertrappersupply.com
Hornady Manufacturing - www.hornady.com
Indiana Destination Development Corporation -
www.visitindiana.com
Kehrer Fish Company -
www.kehrerfishcompany.com
L&S Bait Company - www.shopmirrolure.com
Lawrence County Tourism - limestonecountry.com
LensPen - www.lenspen.com
LiveTarget Lures - www.livetargetlures.com
Mack's Lure - www.mackslure.com
Mathews Archery - www.mathewsinc.com
MEC Outdoors - www.mecoutdoors.com
Mepps by Sheldons', Inc - www.mepps.com
MirroLure - www.shopmirrolure.com
Mister Twister - www.mistertwister.com
Mongo Attachments –
www.mongoattachments.com
Mustad - www.mustad-fishing.com
National Shooting Sports Foundation –
www.nssf.org
National Wild Turkey Federation - www.nwtf.org
Nikko Fishing - www.nikko-fishing.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
Pro-Cure Bait Scents - www.pro-cure.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
Smith's Products - www.smithsproducts.com
Speedhook Specialists - www.speedhook.com
Sporting Classics - www.sportingclassics.com
Spypoint Trail Cameras - www.spypoint.com
St. Croix Rods - www.stcroixrods.com
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - www.ruger.com
Swab-Its - www.swab-its.com
Sweet Owen CVB - www.sweetowencvb.org
Tales End Tackle - www.talesendtackle.com
Target Communications Outdoor Books –
www.targetcommbooks.com
Toyota Motor Sales - www.toyotaneewsroom.com
Traditions Media - www.traditionsmedia.com
Traveler's Guide to Firearms Laws of 50 States -
www.bookvalueusa.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - www.ttiblakemore.com
Vexilar, Inc. - www.vexilar.com
Whitetails Unlimited - www.whitetailsunlimited.com
WOOX - www.wooxstore.com
W.R. Case - www.wrcase.com
Z-Man Fishing - 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	_____ 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:

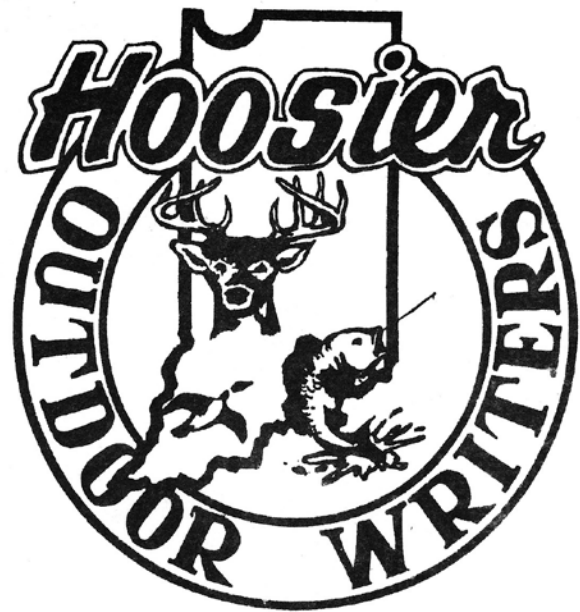
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor 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

OWAA 2023 Annual Conference:

(www.owaa.org)
Gulf Shores, AL

September 9-11, 2023

AGLOW 2023 Annual Conference:

(www.aglowinfo.org)
Bemidji, MN

September 17-22, 2023

Indianapolis Fall Boat & Travel Show:

(www.IndySportShow.com)
Indianapolis, IN

September 22-24, 2023

Ford Cincinnati Boat, Sport & Travel Show:

(www.CincySportShow.com)
Cincinnati, OH

January 19-21 & 24-28, 2024

Cincinnati Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo:

(www.CincySportShow.com)
Cincinnati, OH

January 19-21, 2024

HOW 2024 Annual Conference:

(www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org)
Indiana Fairgrounds
Indianapolis, IN

February 16-17, 2024

Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show:

(www.IndySportShow.com)
Indianapolis, IN

February 16-18 & 21-24, 2024

Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo:

(www.IndySportShow.com)
Indianapolis, IN

February 22-25, 2024

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*.