

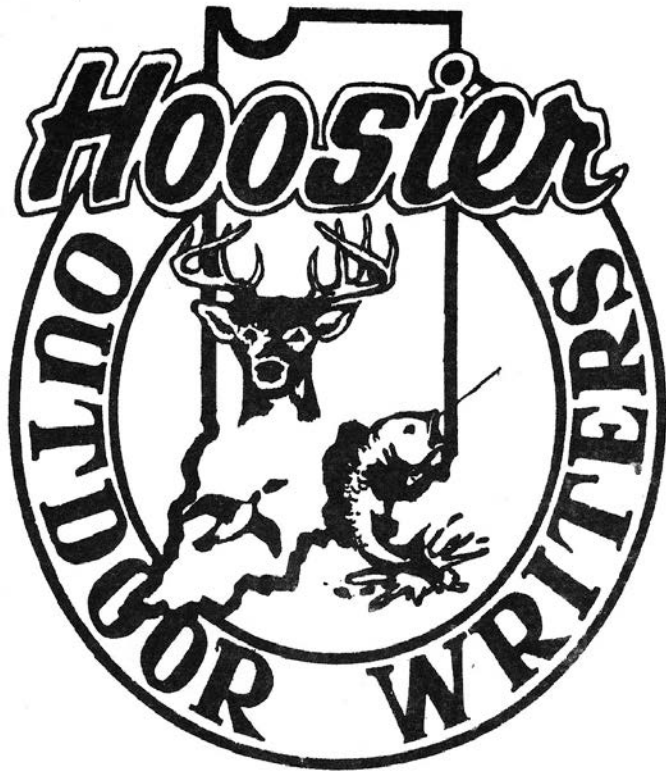
The Blade

September - October 2023

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"A Lake Superior lake trout ready to come aboard", 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: Another spunky lake trout is ready to be hoisted aboard by a successful angler fishing out of the Big Fish Ontario fish camp on the northern shores of Lake Superior. The fishermen on this boat caught upwards of 75 trout (this size and larger) on this sunny day in July. Photo by Tom Berg.

President's Message

by Jarrett Manek

Share the Outdoors

Greetings! I hope everyone has enjoyed the summer and are gearing up for the fall season. Fall is my favorite time, and I know many others in the Hoosier State feel the same way. I am reminded that not everyone is cut from the same cloth, though. I was recently involved with a few circumstances that made me reflect why I love the outdoors, why I love teaching about the outdoors and why I have come to respect our resources in the way that I do. If we do not decide to protect the aspects of what we enjoy, then who will do it when we are no longer able?



The first event I was recently involved with was a case where someone was keeping several box turtles as pets. Eastern box turtles are now protected in Indiana. It was common practice years ago for someone to let their child keep a box turtle as a pet through the summer and then let it go in the fall. It is now known that this is extremely detrimental to the turtle's winter survival. Besides the negative impacts of removing turtles from their local habitat, these turtles are often sold on the black market and shipped overseas. Not only were these particular turtles being kept illegally, but they were malnourished and unhealthy, resulting in deformities and sickness. Due to our Indiana Turn in a Poacher (TIP) program, this person was turned in and cited. The turtles were removed and are now getting the nutrition and care they need. Sadly, however, they will not be able to be returned to the wild.



Second, with the use of technology, today's social media can produce some "feel good" stories instead of the above circumstances with box turtles. Technology today can be far more effective with getting the word out and brings a whole new meaning to "word of mouth". In fact, in relation to turtles, at some point everyone will run into someone who has a pet that this is considered exotic or non-native. I recently was the caretaker of a 75 pound pet African Sulcata tortoise which escaped its owner's back yard. For almost a week, I had to figure out how to care for something that is not supposed to be in Indiana. Fortunately, through a series of social media reports, the owners were located and reunited with the pet. The tortoise, named "Tank", had traveled a mile and a half away from his home. Our Indiana conservation officers posted the story and it went everywhere from local TV news stations to web news. Having any animal, whether exotic, native, or domestic, is a responsibility. Make sure you are

informed on the up-to-date regulations and proper care.

The love of the outdoors runs thick with many people, but sometimes life just occasionally gets in the way. Responsibilities of family, bills, good intentions, bad choices, construction projects, work, sickness and every other excuse in the world can keep someone from getting out in nature. Please take time to enjoy the outdoors and tell someone, teach someone and share why we love to be outdoors. Study-up and share with your neighbor or co-worker the laws associated with what we are trying to protect, too.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents and Memorial Section

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

**Archery Trade Association (Supporting)
New Ulm, MN
Sponsor: Tom Berg**

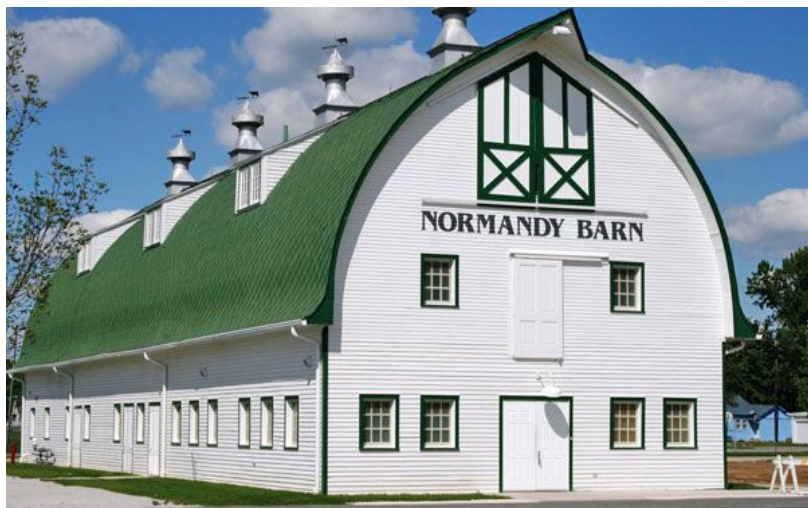
**Memorial to Deceased
HOW Members
Those Who Have Gone Before Us:**

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 Returns to Indianapolis

As mentioned in the previous issue of *The Blade*, 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

The 2024 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

HOW CRAFTS AWARD CONTEST RULES

The contest year shall be for material published or aired from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. 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. The only exception is the broadcast division, where tapes and CD/DVDs 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 no later than midnight on January 15, 2024. Entries emailed after that date will be disqualified. Send all entries to the proper contest coordinator.
- 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 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 Bloom, Email: contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

For all Photography entries, send submissions to the Photo Contest Coordinator:

John Martino, Email: jmartinooutdoors@att.net

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

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

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)

2024 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 January 15, 2024

Musky Hunting on Bass Lake

Story and photos by Bob Jennings

I hadn't been on a musky hunt in several years, so when my neighbor friend Danny Bough and I got to talking about going fishing a few weeks ago I told him about a lake close by that held large muskies. He was very interested so we planned and set a date and we were off on a musky hunt. He had never fished for musky, so I figured this would be a nice trip. And if he tangled with one of these toothy critters, all the better.



We left about 8:00am and were on the water within the hour. This lake allows electric motors only and Danny's boat is a 14-foot Bass Tracker, nicely set up with two comfortable seats. I've fished this lake for musky in the past, but no luck so far...

We moved around the lake covering a lot of water, casting a few different topwater baits like a Pflueger Globe, Cisco Kid Topper, Crazy Crawlers and some other globe types. I decided to try some underwater baits, but there were lots of weeds and stick ups to avoid.

I found that a chartreuse Dardevle Red Eye worked the best for me that day. On about my fourth cast, as I was reeling I looked down to see my lure coming in and saw the head of a musky appear behind my lure and then quickly disappear back into the deep. Danny was using topwater baits in various hot colors and a Wishin' Lure I gave him. All of a sudden he said, "Oh—I gotta hit," but then the fish was gone. A few seconds later he said, "Probably a bass."

I kept casting the Red Eye out in the deep water and got snagged. Boy, I was snagged good. I tried pulling while Danny maneuvered the boat around. I kept the line tight and thought a few times it was pulling back, but figured it was just the boat. A few times it seemed to pull back, but not like a musky (I've caught a few), and again I figured it was Danny turning the boat. We came to where I was snagged and I pulled and the lure came loose. When the Red Eye came to the surface, there were no weeds on it – the lure was clean.



Sooooo, looking at this on the *positive side*, I think it's possible that a *very large musky* mouthed my lure and held it, and moved a little now and then – and finally spit it out at his convenience. What I should have done was pull back several times hard to 'set the hooks', but of course I didn't.

Now looking at the *negative side*, or maybe the '*real*' or '*unreal side*' – it is possible that I was hooked on a rock or an old underwater tree branch or other obstacle. But what about the clean lure coming out of the water after the snag?

I like the *positive side*....yeah...I'll stick with the *positive side*.

We decided to head in at about noon. We were quite a ways from our put in spot, but we made it. We had to get the boat on the trailer manually as the battery gave out just as we got to shore. How'd we do? We had a swell time as two fisherman often do. It's being there that counts. Catching something would be a bonus!

By the way.... Danny agreed with me on the *positive side*.

Schoonveld Nets Big Fish on Vacation

by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

My wife says our vacations are always fishing trips. Wrong!

Obviously, she disremembers the times our fall trips took us to South Dakota in October for ducks and pheasants or down to the Rio Grande where I went quail hunting every day - just saying.

So, when my daughter Abby brought up planning a family vacation this summer and suggested a return to Sauble Resort on Hamlin Lake just north of Ludington, Michigan, I was all in. We used to go there almost annually when Abby was a young girl and evidently those vacations when I went fishing every day didn't excessively traumatize her.

"Sounds great," I said as we were sitting around the table. "I'll take my boat and maybe we can go fishing once or twice."

Instantly, both Abby and my wife shouted, "NO BOATS!"

"No boats?" I said.

"No Boats," they both said.

Then another voice piped in as two-year-old Anna repeated, "No Boats, Grampa!"

Obviously, I'd been out-voted, but this only meant a little stealth and strategy would have to be employed. What male of my age hasn't learned a certain level of deviousness when it comes to interacting with the female cohorts of the family?

Long ago, Dean Jessup was the manager at Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area while I was stationed at Willow Slough. We were friends, then but when he moved on, our friendship faded. We became reacquainted a few years ago when Dean became involved with the Pentwater Salmon Association and he recognized my name as the Associate Editor of *Great Lakes Angler* magazine.



Pentwater, Michigan is the next town south of Ludington. Dean has a boat set up for Lake Michigan fishing. Two plus two equals the beginning of a plan.

An early start to the day, the promise of a nice lunch at Pentwater for the whole family and a couple hours of beach time with the group at Charles Mears State Park at Pentwater in the afternoon sealed the deal. The morning would be mine, but we'd meet at the fish cleaning station at noon and walk across the street to the Gull Landing Restaurant.

We were setting lines at the first hint of dawn just a few miles south of Pentwater. I was the "guest angler," so I was invited to grab the rod when the first fish of the morning nabbed a lure. It was a nice coho, perhaps a six-pounder. After that we took turns with each additional fish. Dean's regular fishing partner, Bruce, was along that morning and it was Bruce's turn when "Mr. Big" nabbed a lure trolling deep below the boat.

When a big fish is on the line, it takes teamwork to get it to the boat. Bruce mostly held on to the rod at the

(continued next page)

beginning of the fight as the fish peeled off yard after yard of line before finally slowing. Dean stayed at the helm, doing his best to keep the fish straight behind the boat. I pulled each of the downrigger rods to prevent an unwanted tangle.

The fish had other plans and despite our efforts, the salmon managed to get tangled with one of the other lines. As a charter captain, I'd faced similar situations many times – although not always successfully. I got ahold of the Brillo Pad-like mess as the tangle pulled close behind the boat and I went to work on it.

Some wrecks like this are impossible to fix while others are easy. It is bad luck when it happens, but the luck changed in our favor as the mess came untangled, and even more luck when the fish stayed on the line while things were cleared. Somehow, while I was sorting through the line twists, Dean had taken over the rod and Bruce was now at the helm. Teamwork.

Big fish don't ever give up, but the worst was over. Several minutes later the fish was nearly spent and was coming in range of the landing net which I'd pulled out of its storage spot.

I got the net about three-quarters under the fish and lifted, tumbling the huge salmon into the mesh. It took both Dean and me working together to actually hoist it aboard (more teamwork). Later, we put the fish on a digital scale and it weighed 25.85 pounds.

The fish-cleaning was done when my family arrived. If you are ever in Pentwater, I highly recommend stopping at the Gull Landing Restaurant.

Also, the beach was perfect and as a special treat, we stopped by the Dari Crème for ice cream cones on the way back to the cabin.

Who says with a bit of planning fishing can't be a good fit for a family vacation?



Dean Jessup (left) and Mike Schoonveld display a big Lake Michigan king salmon caught fishing out of Pentwater, MI.

Admitting Your Mistakes

Story and photos by Jarrett Manek

There was a saying that I just could not get in right in my head. You know the thought; it is on the tip of your tongue, then it hits you and you remember. “A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush!” That phrase has haunted me more than once in my lifetime. Maybe it is out of reverence, or out of hesitation; maybe it is out of just not being prepared or ready. Sometimes it is from being what I call “rusty”. Whatever the case, you are left empty handed and replaying in your mind over and over how things should have gone. Everyone has been there at one time or another. You just cannot take back time and do it over.

One time for me it was a wild hog in Florida. I thought I had plenty of time to get some great photos of the beast before the harvest. Nope! I did get the picture proof, but no bacon. Another time, I was in “awe” of the spiraling flight and jet engine sound of a huge flock of mallards coming down into the decoy spread in Mississippi. It was mesmerizing as I watched as everyone else’s guns get unloaded. By the time I was ready to shoot it was too late. There was also an instance where my buddy and I were going to let the ducks circle just one more time. After the fourth pass, they were no longer impressed with our decoys or calling.

This time was a little more personal. It was my daughter’s last youth deer hunt. We were ready, and we had scouted for months. She had been motivated to go by tradition, good weather, the thought of outdoing her older brother and by seeing several bucks we had patterned every evening by the house. There were six bucks that were hanging in a bachelor group and all were considered mature, respectable deer. Each one had its own unique characteristics, and we recognized several of them from last year. The time had come; she had not scheduled anything like social time with her friends, volleyball practice, work, or lounging in her bed on her phone. Her brother had gotten in on the task and helped me hang a stand the afternoon of the hunt.



Everything was falling into place. Time was on our side and a doe and fawn had showed up early in the evening to give us some entertainment. They were munching on soybeans, which were still unusually green for this time of year. Normally they have all turned brown by this time. We heard the crunch of leaves and a steady walk, and we knew that more deer were coming into the field. The doe and her fawn were on alert, looking inward towards the trees and field edge. Just as we expected, from out of the trail we had been watching, one of the bucks decides to show himself unbeknownst to the father and daughter sitting just 35 yards away. He was a nice 10 pointer; bigger than she had harvested previously. Here is where the phrase at the

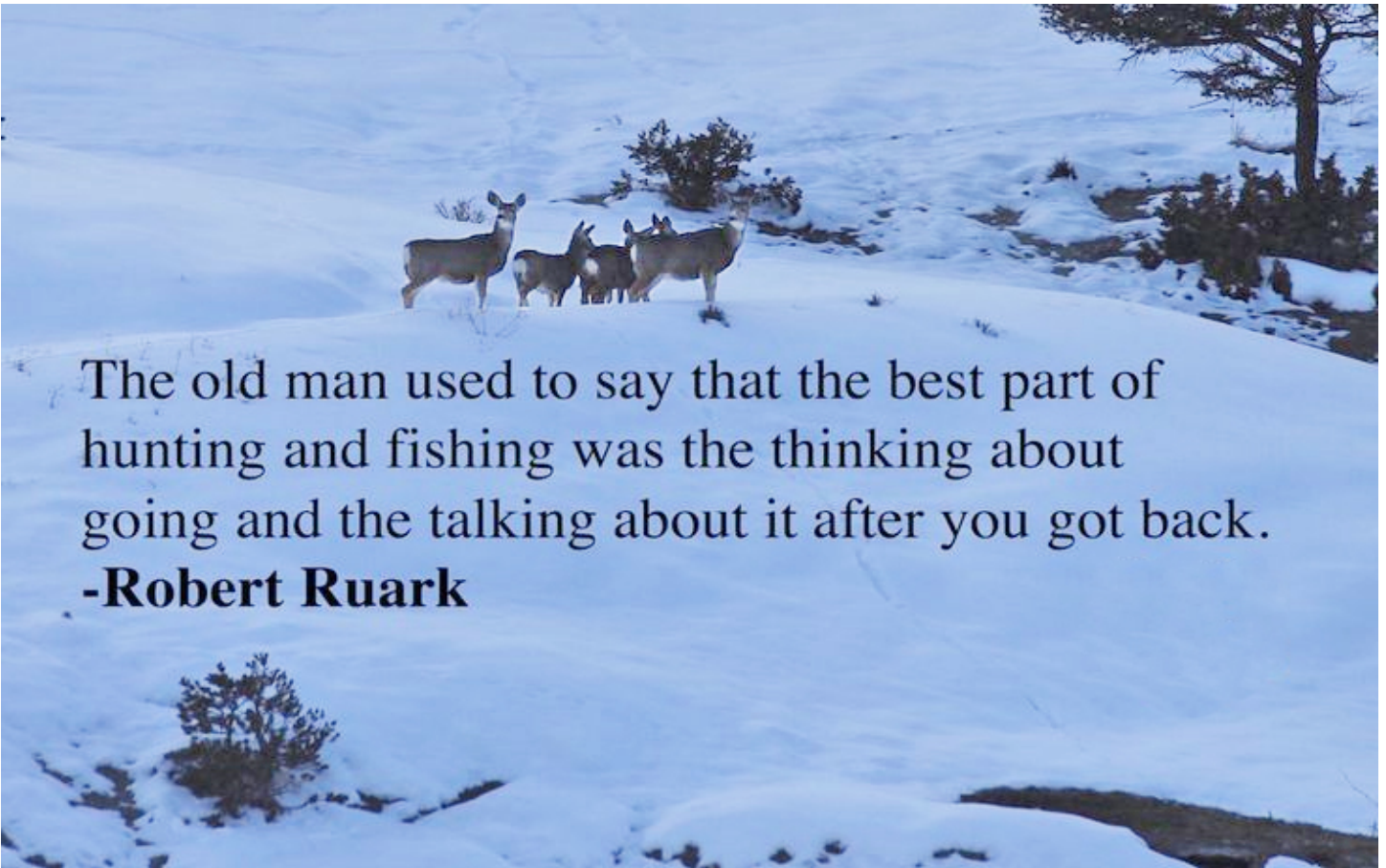
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beginning of my story rings true. This is this father's famous last words: "Let's just wait a little bit. He will hang around right here and the others will come out with him any minute, just like we have been seeing. Then you will be able to take your pick."

Nope. I can say things did not go as planned. As we waited, the buck got a little further away. The other bucks did not come out, and by the time my daughter wanted to shoot he was too far for a good quality shot. The gun could have made the shot, but common sense and responsible ethics said that she had not practiced the shot at that distance and it was better to not chance wounding an animal for a long, desperate shot.

Lessons learned will hopefully produce better results later in the season. Next time both of us might think twice before hesitating. A good friend always told me to not pass up something on the first day that you would readily shoot on the last day of season. This time I will have the constant sound of my sweet daughter's voice reminding me that it was my fault for her not harvesting a deer on her last youth season and having the picture to prove it.





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 and his wife have been traveling a bit this year, and they are always on the lookout for unusual birds during their expeditions. Their recent trip to Alaska and Washington state allowed them to see a bird that most people have never even heard of. Here is the report:



Here is the Clark's Nutcracker. Corvidae family members are considered among the most intelligent birds, which in the United States includes the ravens, crows, jays and magpies, and one lone nutcracker. Photo by Dave Hoffman.

“My wife, Judy, and I recently embarked on a marathon tour of Pacific Northwest national parks during an autumn getaway,” Hoffman explained. “Climbing the steep switchback road to Mt. Rainier’s Sunrise Visitor Center offers an unobstructed view of the park’s photogenic 14,441-foot frozen peaks.”

“As we pulled into the parking lot, I hadn’t brought the car to a stop before I spotted what appeared to be a woodpecker landing near the peak of a conifer within camera range. The mountain would still be there, so I grabbed my camera and hurriedly fired off a frame of the bird to check the exposure. It was then that I realized I’d just captured an unidentified “Lifer” bird with a fascinating history.”

“My first guess of a woodpecker,” he continued, “was the same error made by the man who was credited with first

documenting the bird in his journal – William Clark from the famous Lewis and Clark expedition (1804-1806).”

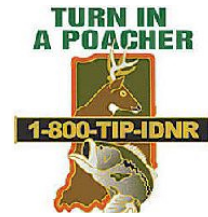
[“I saw to day \[a\] Bird of the woodpecker kind which fed on Pine burs its Bill and tale white the wings black every other part ...” 22 August 1805 William Clark.](#)

Clark’s journal entry above might make an English teacher cringe, but he can probably be excused since he was exploring unknown wilderness at the time. Hoffman further explained: “Clark’s partner during their epic journey, Meriwether Lewis, later examined the bird species in detail during 1806 as he awaited the spring thaw of an old Indian trail across the Bitterroot Mountains. He described the bird as being in the ‘Corvus genus of a kind found only in the Rocky Mountains and their neighbourhood.’”

Alexander Wilson, regarded as a pioneer ornithologist and who published Volume one of *American Ornithology; or, the Natural History of the Birds of the United States* also described Clark’s bird as being in the family Corvidae, and the genus Corvus. However, the scientific name was later changed by none other than John James Audubon to *Nucifraga* [nut breaker] *columbiana* [of the Columbia River]. Today the bird is commonly known as **Clark’s Nutcracker** (*Nucifraga columbiana*).



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: August 31, 2023

Indiana DNR Finds Common Wall Lizards in Southeastern Indiana



The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages the public to help it track sightings of common wall lizards (*Podarcis muralis*) in southeastern Indiana.

DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife biologists recently observed an estimated 20 to 35 wall lizards living in a rock-lined embankment bordering the Ohio River in Lawrenceburg, about 2 miles from the Ohio state line. Since that initial discovery, members of the public and DNR have identified additional wall lizard colonies in the cities of Aurora and Rising Sun.

Common wall lizards are not native to North America and are not generally dangerous. However, there is some concern among herpetologists that common wall lizards may outcompete native species like common five-lined skinks for food and shelter, though more research is needed to understand their interactions. Further work is needed to determine the extent of colonization in southeast Indiana and inform the DNR's management recommendations. Sightings of common wall lizards, especially those backed by photographs, should be emailed to HerpSurveys@dnr.IN.gov.

All currently known sites are located along the Ohio River where the lizards inhabit rocky and vegetated banks of the river and a nearby rock wall. DNR is conducting additional surveys to better understand the situation.

The common wall lizard is a European species that became established in Cincinnati during the early 1950s after several were intentionally released. This non-native species has since colonized much of the Cincinnati area, including parts of northern Kentucky, and is currently expanding into nearby areas of southwest Ohio. They have been approaching the Indiana border in recent years.

Common wall lizards are approximately 5½ to 8 inches in length as adults and usually have a brown or gray back with mottling or spotting on the sides. Some of them have a reticulated pattern on their back. This species thrives in urban and suburban areas where they inhabit stone walls, rubble heaps, degraded buildings, rocky hillsides, and shoreline areas like that of the Ohio River.

Find out more about wall lizards at wildlife.IN.gov/wildlife-resources/animals/wall-lizards/.

Media contact: Nate Engbrecht, state herpetologist, DNR Fish & Wildlife, phone: 812-822-3403, email: nengbrecht@dnr.IN.gov.

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

For immediate release: October 10, 2023

Indiana Celebrates the Dedication of 300 Nature Preserves

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today celebrated the dedication of its 300th nature preserve, Toothwort Woods, in Jennings County.

“The journey from the first dedicated nature preserve in 1969 to the 300th nature preserve in 2023 traces a history of hard work and a commitment to protect important natural areas and unique species all across Indiana,” said Dan Bortner, DNR director. “Recognizing Indiana’s natural communities and protecting lands on such a wide scale is not possible without our many partners across the state who share a commitment to conserving these special places.”

The conservation of this scenic and biologically rich area marks a major milestone in protecting Indiana’s natural character. Indiana’s state dedicated nature preserves – which now number 300 statewide – provide the highest level of protection for Indiana’s most significant natural areas.

“Nature preserves protect those areas in Indiana that have unusual natural significance and preserves these unique habitats for plant and animal species,” said Ron Hellmich, director of the DNR Division of Nature Preserves. “These areas serve as a reminder of how connected the health of the human community is to the health of these natural communities.”

Toothwort Woods Nature Preserve, which is managed as part of Crosley Fish & Wildlife Area (FWA), is the only place in the state where all four of Indiana’s native toothwort plant species are found growing together. The preserve also protects multiple diverse habitat types that support other rare plants and animals.

The Vernon Fork of the Muscatatuck River flows on the west side of the property, where seeps and small pools harbor unique wetland plants as well as woodland and prairie plants like sunflowers, Culver’s root, and big bluestem. The highest points of the preserve make way to ravines of cobble and cliffs that showcase the exposed limestone bedrock in the area. Upland forests of oak-hickory, sugar maple, American beech, and tulip popular create a mature tree canopy, under which grows an impressive array of flowering plants.

“Placing these beautiful and ecologically rich acres of Crosley FWA into the protected designation of a nature preserve helps us support the continued existence of the unique attributes of the area and the plants and animals that live here,” said Amanda Wuestefeld, director of the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife.

As part of the celebration, John Bacone, the DNR Division of Nature Preserves director from 1979 to 2019, was honored with the Sagamore of the Wabash, one of the state’s highest honors conferred by the governor for distinguished service to the state. Bacone’s commitment to protecting Indiana’s most special natural places was critical to meeting this major milestone.

To learn more about Indiana’s 300 nature preserves and the natural areas they protect, visit on.IN.gov/naturepreserves.

Media contact: Holly Lawson, DNR Communications, phone: 317-533-0013 or hlawson@dnr.IN.gov.

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

For immediate release: October 19, 2023

Indiana State Parks Break Ground on Lodge at Potato Creek

Gov. Eric J. Holcomb joined the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today to break ground on the Lodge at Potato Creek, which is the first state park lodge in Indiana built since 1939.

“There’s a reason why Indiana’s state park inns have the highest occupancy rate in the nation and continue to earn such high national rankings,” said Gov. Holcomb. “People come here from across the country and around the world because of the unparalleled experience and hospitality extended at our state park inns. Whether you’re out hiking a trail or sitting by the fire, our state parks offer an opportunity to immerse yourself in nature’s finest surroundings.”

The lodge, which will be the eighth to join the Indiana State Parks Inns system, will sit on the scenic south shore of Worster Lake at Potato Creek State Park, which is near North Liberty in St. Joseph County.

The preliminary plan for the lodge includes 120 guest rooms, a full-service dining room that seats 150, a conference center with three break-out rooms and capacity for 350 guests, an indoor aquatic center, a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces for small gatherings, a mini-nature room for programs and exhibits, a café, a gift shop, and access to the lake and other park features.



The preliminary plan for the lodge includes 120 guest rooms, a full-service dining room that seats 150, a conference center with three break-out rooms and capacity for 350 guests, an indoor aquatic center, a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces for small gatherings, a mini-nature room for programs and exhibits, a café, a gift shop, and access to the lake and other park features.

The lodge will provide a base for four seasons of outdoor recreation for guests, with activities ranging from bike riding and boating in summer to ice fishing and hiking in winter, along with the viewing of spring wildflowers, migratory birds, and fall colors in the woods and prairies.

To support the lodge’s construction, \$100 million was appropriated earlier this year in the state budget. The lodge will be operated through the Indiana Inns Authority, a legislatively established, quasi-governmental entity that is a functional part of the DNR Division of State Parks.

“By building our second overnight lodging facility for Hoosiers in the northern part of the state, we’re both making history and making way for new opportunities to get out and explore our great outdoor Indiana,” said DNR Director Dan Bortner. “Our park guests love making year-round memories at Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park, and we know this new lodge at Potato Creek is going to be a great place for more memories to be made.”

More project information about the Lodge at Potato Creek is at on.IN.gov/potato-creek-lodge. More information about Potato Creek State Park is at on.IN.gov/potatocreeksp.

Media contact: Holly Lawson, DNR Communications, phone: 317-533-0013 or hlawson@dnr.IN.gov.



Forest Service News Release

Public Affairs Specialist: Marion Mason
(812) 277-6877
Marion.Mason@usda.gov
<https://fs.usda.gov/hoosier>

Fall Prescribed Burns Planned on the Hoosier National Forest

Bedford, Indiana. (October 12, 2023) — The USDA Forest Service plans to conduct seasonal prescribed burning this fall on the Hoosier National Forest. Prescribed fire is used to maintain, restore or improve early successional habitat for wildlife, maintain wetlands, restore and maintain unique barren communities, and restore oak-hickory dominated ecosystems. It also reduces the amount of woody material on the forest floor, thereby lowering the risk of catastrophic wildfire, and increases plant diversity.

Prescribed burns will be conducted on National Forest System lands and through agreements with adjacent private landowners. Areas being considered for burning this fall have signage placed in advance, but determination of whether a fire will be implemented will be made on the day of the burn after careful evaluation of key factors and conditions. Forest staff notifies residents and businesses in the immediate area of a potential prescribed burn one or two days prior depending on neighbor preference. Check the forest’s social media accounts for announcements of burns at www.facebook.com/HoosierNF/ and <https://twitter.com/HoosierNF>.

Designated burn units are closed to all public entry, including hunting, on the day of the burn and until the area is considered safe. For your safety, please contact the Indiana Interagency Coordination Center Dispatcher (812-547-9262) if you plan to hunt or camp in or near a prescribed burn area.

Smoke is an unavoidable consequence of prescribed burning. Fire managers burn only under atmospheric conditions specified in a burn plan and rely on meteorological data to choose days in which the impacts of smoke are minimized. Smoke plumes from a prescribed fire usually rise high into the air where the smoke dissipates. If smoke is present on roadways, motorists should reduce speeds and turn on headlights.



Prescribed fire is an important tool in restoring and maintaining oak-hickory dominated ecosystems, which many wildlife species require for survival.

All burns are implemented under carefully planned prescriptions and protocols to mitigate the risk of an escaped fire and smoke exposure to communities.



Prescribed fires are low intensity, burning primarily leaf litter, dry herbaceous plants, downed woody debris and small saplings. Plant life rebounds quickly.

Forest neighbors who wish to be notified of a specific date of a burn, or those who wish to report medical conditions that could be affected by smoke, may contact the Indiana Interagency Coordination Center Dispatcher at 812-547-9262.



LAKE MICHIGAN FISHERIES MEETING



Calling all anglers, charter captains, and lake enthusiasts!

Join us for a seminar on fish biology, ecology and fisheries science happening in Lake Michigan. Workshop topics will include:

- Tracking fish with acoustic telemetry
- Emerging research about PFAS in Lake Michigan fishes
- Indiana DNR fisheries report

WED, NOVEMBER 1, 2023

6:00 - 8:30 pm Central Time
Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk classroom
100 Riverwalk Dr, Portage, IN 46368

THURS, NOVEMBER 9, 2023

6:00 - 8:30 pm Central Time
Virtual Zoom Event

Register: purdue.ag/fall-2023-fisheries



This workshop is presented by Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Purdue Extension, Purdue Forestry and Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, University of Notre Dame, Michigan State University, and Indiana Dunes National Park.



Peter Euclide

@peuclide

Questions? Email peuclide@purdue.edu



Extension - Forestry
and Natural Resources

HOW Member News

Squirrel Hunting with My New Friend “Henry”

Long-time HOW member Gary Redmon was the lucky winner of a new Henry lever action rifle at the Hoosier Outdoor Writers conference earlier this spring. As you can see below, he has already been putting it to good use. Check out his recent report below.

“My first hunt of the 2023-24 season occurred recently and it was also my first hunt with a new friend,” said Redmon. “On a cool morning my friend Henry and I arrived at the woods and headed to a well-known stand of poplar and shagbark hickory trees.”

“Sitting backed up to a large poplar tree, I scanned the treetops for any movement of feeding squirrels. My ears were tuned in for any sound of squirrel chatter or falling hickory cuttings from above,” he continued. “My eyes turned to my friend Henry, a new .22 S/L/LR lever action rifle. I admired the craftsmanship of this firearm. It is a fairly light gun at six and three-quarter pounds, and has an American walnut stock with brass plated receiver. It has already become a prized possession for me, and is a great reminder of the ole west style rifle.”

“It wasn’t long before the familiar sounds of hickory cuttings raining down through the nearby branches turned my attention up high in the treetops. Henry and I patiently waited for the grey bushytail to make its way down the tree. Waiting and aiming for a still shot, I lined-up Henry’s buck-horn type rear sight with the front sight. These sights are made for accurate shooting without a scope, and the butter-smooth trigger helped seal the deal. I scored on my first kill with Henry.”

“With high confidence, I continued the hunt. The scenario repeated itself several times that memorable morning. I came out of the woods impressed with the balance, fit and accuracy of my new friend Henry. Henry gained my trust that day, and I can say with surety that there will be more future trips with Henry.”

“Thank you to Henry Repeating Arms and the Hoosier Outdoor Writers for allowing me a lucky chance to own a new Henry Golden Boy .22 S/L/LR at the 2023 Hoosier Outdoor Writers Conference.”



Hoffman Tries “Speed Parking” in Washington State

HOW member Dave Hoffman and his wife recently took a cruise to Alaska, but they started their trip in Seattle, Washington so they could see some of Washington’s scenic national parks. I’d say they were successful.

“While our travel agent advised us to depart two days early to be sure that we’d secure a flight to Seattle and not miss our Alaska cruise,” remembered Hoffman, “we opted for three days and added a national park marathon. Not the running type of marathon, but the windshield type; a race to see all three Washington national parks in three days.”

“First up was North Cascades National Park (NP), one of the least visited parks in the lower 48 and located about three hours northeast of Seattle. It’s also one of our most rugged and remote wilderness areas and totals a half-million acres in size. The Cascades are among the youngest mountains on the continent and are characterized by steep, jagged peaks and deep, glacial valleys. All five salmon species and several trout species inhabit the Skagit River, which flows from the Cascades into Puget Sound.



“The sign at the entrance to Cascades National Park is the most representative of the terrain of all the parks we have visited,” said Dave Hoffman.

If you’re into wild areas, grizzly bears, mountain lions, wolves and wolverines – this might be the place for you.”

“Mt. Rainier NP,” he continued, “which is a 14,411-foot stratovolcano, is characterized by high, steep sides which can be seen for many miles from all directions. Such volcanos typically experience violent and explosive eruptions like that of neighboring Mt. St. Helens in 1980. Not just a majestic, photogenic mountain, Mt. Rainier NP encompasses 300 lakes, 25 glaciers, dozens of waterfalls, and uncounted meadows filled with radiant wildflowers. Located an hour from Seattle, the park is also a popular winter destination for snowshoeing and cross-country skiers. Known as Tahoma to the native peoples, it was established as a National Park in 1899. This park is a true gem and it attracted nearly 1.6 million visitors last year.”



From the 6,400 foot level Mt. Rainier rises in a steep incline up to its 14,411 foot peak. Photo by Dave Hoffman.

“The crown jewel of the state’s national parks is Olympic NP. Ranking 14th in the number of visitors last year at 2.4 million, the park is also designated as a World Heritage Site. There’s 73 miles of wild seashore with beaches, tidal pools, sea stacks and waterfalls. The park’s biotic communities range from the old growth and temperate coastal forests all the way to the Alpine biome. Throughout the park’s nearly one million acres are over 600 miles of trails of all lengths and skill levels.”

“Preservation efforts for Olympic NP began in 1909 when President Theodore Roosevelt became concerned about

the dwindling elk population of 150 animals on the Olympic Peninsula. National park status was designated in 1938, and the Roosevelt Elk population today within the park is around 5,000 animals.”

Jarrett Manek Appears to be Prepared for Halloween

HOW President Jarrett Manek is a fun-loving guy, and the photo here proves it. This picture appeared on Facebook recently on an Indiana State Parks post. We almost didn't recognize him...but then we did!

Jarrett explained the photo (without explaining the wig), saying "This photo relates to seasonal arts and crafts. Carving apples is easy, fun and nutritional, because you can eat the apple afterwards."

We can't argue with that logic!



HOW Members Win 2023 AGLOW AIC Awards

The AGLOW Awards in Craft ceremony was held during the annual meeting of the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers in Bemidji, Minnesota on September 21, 2023. AGLOW's best of the best in the outdoor communications industry were recognized for their outstanding work, and some of our very own HOW members were among the winners. Congrats to the winners! Here are their names and the contest details:

Best of Magazine / Boat, Travel & Camping

2nd Place – Tom Berg

The Best Canadian Campsites

Best of Newspaper / Hunting

1st Place – Brandon Butler

*Honoring the Hunter Who Left
His Turkey Vest Behind*

Best of Radio - Podcast / Hunting

3rd Place – Trent Marsh

Dan Schmidt of DDH Talks Hunting

Best of Radio - Podcast / Open

1st Place – Brandon Butler

Faith, Fishing and Recovery with Blake Wilson

2nd Place – Trent Marsh

Justin Martin on Becoming a Dad

Working at Duck Commander

Congratulations!

HOW Member Wins 2023 TOWA EIC Awards

The TOWA Excellence in Craft awards ceremony was held during the annual meeting of the Tennessee Outdoor Writers Association in Dayton, Tennessee on October 17, 2023. TOWA's best writers, photographers and broadcasters were recognized for their outstanding work, and one of our very own HOW members was among the winners. Congrats to Richard Hines! Here are the pertinent contest details:

Best Magazine Article

1st Place – Richard Hines

The American Chestnut

Best Conference Site Story

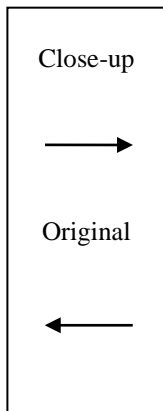
2nd Place – Richard Hines

Reelfoot Crappie Experts Tell All

Congratulations to all the winners!

Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Al's Goldfish Company

Eastern Fence Lizards are Extremely Nimble and Fast



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was easier than the previous one, since it was correctly identified by nine (9) HOW members. Mike Schoonveld, Mike

Lunsford, Phil Cox, Jack Spaulding, Troy McCormick, Bill Keaton, Bob Jennings, Gary Redmon and John Maxwell were all able to identify it. Unfortunately, we did not have a sponsor for the previous issue’s contest, so everyone that guessed correctly can simply enjoy the fact that they came up with the right answer. Luckily, we have a sponsor for this issue!

As can be seen in the photo above, the mystery creature for this issue was a colorful Eastern Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus undulatus*). These lizards can be found in southern Indiana, and they can be found in many different habitats. They are most common where there are plenty of trees, however, so keep that in mind when looking for them. They are experts at climbing trees, and they use trees to escape predators. They also hunt insects aloft among the leaves and branches. They eat a variety of insects, but ants, crickets and grasshoppers are their favorites. Spiders are a favored menu item, too.

Eastern fence lizards are sometimes called prairie lizards, gray lizards, pine lizards or horn-billed lizards. They typically measure 7-8 inches long and are covered with rough scales. They are mostly brown or grayish-brown, but breeding males have a reddish-orange band along their sides and a bright blue belly and throat. They are surprisingly beautiful.

For this issue, our friends at **Al's Goldfish Company** have donated a 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 custom mini tackle box filled with Al's Goldfish fishing lures. See below for more info 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 Indiana. 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 bat, for example, go ahead and guess “Indiana 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!



As mentioned, **Al's Goldfish** (www.alsgoldfish.com) has donated a great mini tackle box filled with fishing lures for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. The box shown here is representative only – the actual lures will likely be different. 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.

Hawke® Optics' New Nature-Trek Spotter Wins *Outdoor Life* Editor's Choice Award

Fort Wayne, IN – Hawke® Optics, known as a worldwide leader in quality sporting optics that perform outstanding in the field while maintaining optimum value for the consumer, is proud to announce that *Outdoor Life* editors have selected the Nature-Trek 13-39x56 Spotting Scope as their Editor's Choice, Best Value in compact spotting scopes for 2023. Read the full article [here](#).

“The top performers in our rigorous test protocols earn the right to wear the Editor's Choice badge,” says *Outdoor Life* Gear Editor Scott Einsmann. “To receive the coveted award a product must be innovative, provide value to the user, and be the best new product in its category. From accurate rifles to crisp binoculars to sensitive rods, our Editor's Choice winners represent the elite outdoor products we test each year.”

The 13-39x56 Nature-Trek Spotting Scope is packed with impressive features. Built using System H2 optics, the spotter offers exceptional optical performance in a lightweight compact frame that makes it a solid choice for pack-in situations where space is a concern. This spotter uses a fully multi-coated optical system with BAK-4 Porro prisms that produce extremely clear and sharp images to really bring far-off items to view. The ultra-compact 56mm frame has barrel focusing for ease of use and 39x magnification in a spotting scope that is small enough for any pack. It has a field of view of 162 to 81 feet at 1,000 yards. Weighing in at a mere 33.3oz, it's extremely compact and ideal to slide into a backpack or glove box and is a superior option on long hikes or hunts.



The Nature-Trek Spotting scope is digiscope compatible, so you can use it to take photos with a digital camera. It comes with a twist-up eye cup, lens caps, a window mount, and a neoprene stay-on case for protection. This spotter is nitrogen purged, waterproof and fog proof, and carries Hawke's legendary No-Fault Lifetime Warranty, so it can handle whatever you throw at it while giving you the peace of mind of knowing it is backed by the best warranty in the business. With an MSRP of \$349, the new Nature-Trek Spotting Scope with Window Mount is an affordable, compact, and clear choice for hunters looking for an ultra-compact spotting scope.

Media Contacts: For more information, HOW members may contact:

Jonina Costello, Full-Throttle Communications, email: jcostello@full-throttle.com, phone: 805-529-3700.

Kevin Sheehan, Hawke Optics V.P. of Sales & Marketing, email: ksheehan@hawkeoptics.com, phone: 877-429-5347, extension 401.

HOW Supporting Member News

HOW Members Can Attend the 2024 ATA Show for Free

New Ulm, MN – The Archery Trade Association (ATA) is the newest HOW Supporting Member, since they just joined our group in September. This is great news, since many HOW members have attended and written about the annual ATA Show for many years. Here is their newest press release:

You're invited! Attend the 2024 ATA Show for Free!

HOW members are eligible to attend the 2024 ATA Show for free as media members. Registered press have access to the Show floor all three days of the 2024 event, Jan. 11-13, in St. Louis, to meet with exhibitors and buyers, learn about newly launched products, get a pulse on the industry, network with other outdoor communicators, and gather archery and bowhunting related content for their platform. Establish yourself as a trusted source of archery and bowhunting information by covering the 2024 ATA Show.



Don't miss your opportunity to attend the industry's largest celebration of archery and bowhunting for free! Apply for your press badge today.

Press registration opened on September 26. Follow these steps to obtain your Show badge:

1. [Click here](#) to register for the Show, or visit the [ATA's press page](#) for more information.
2. Complete the form and submit all necessary press documentation.
3. Allow seven business days for your badge request to be verified and approved.
4. Once approved, you'll receive a confirmation and express pass via email.
5. Use the hotel access code in the confirmation email to book your room in the ATA hotel block.

Need help with your archery coverage or finding information about the 2024 ATA Show? Please contact Cassie Gasaway, ATA's communications manager (contact info below). We'll see you in St. Louis!

Press Registration Link (also hyperlinked above): <https://www.prereg.net/2024/arcpress>

Media Contact:

Cassie Gasaway

ATA's communications manager

Phone: 507-233-8144

Email: cassiegasaway@archerytrade.org.



Apply for a press badge to attend the 2024 ATA Show in St. Louis, Jan. 11-13.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

HOW Supporting Member News

Nikko Fishing Unveils New Hellgrammite Bait

Tokyo, Japan – In 2010, Nikko began production of highly innovative soft baits after several years of research and development. The soft bait business is now one of Nikko Kasei's most strategic lines of business, and in Japan, it has grown rapidly mainly as a private label manufacturer (OEM) to large fishing supply companies as well as marketing under its own brand.

The newest product is the larger 4.25" ZAZA hellgrammites. With all the magic of the original 3" model, Nikko 4.25" hellgrammites add a little extra magic of their own with greater action through a jointed tail. The new hook slot on the back allows for weedless rigging and less snagging, making it easier to cast into cover where the big fish lurk. The larger appendages flutter on the fall to entice leery fish to bite, too. Greater bulk allows for easier skipping.

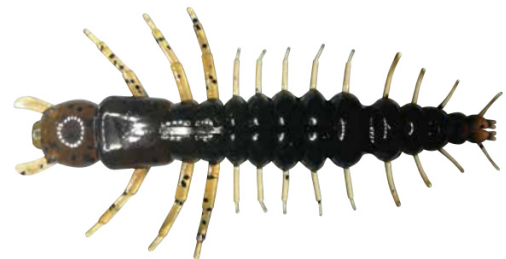
These baits are made with the same durable floating material as the original, so this bait will last and last. Easy to rig. Easy to fish. Easy to catch fish. Now available in Natural, Green Pumpkin, Obsidian, and Magma. The next new colors (Southern Junebug, Peppermilk, Mudbug and Chartreuse) became available this past spring.



Nikko Fishing produces a wide range of small soft baits, including hellgrammites, minnows, crawfish, leeches, tadpoles, stoneflies, caddisflies, waxworms, mayflies, fly larvae, micro strips, scent balls (egg baits) and more.

Check out the catalog online at:
<https://nikko-fishing.com/catalog/>

Media Contact:
Scott Barrett, US Sales
Phone: 703-940-2071
Email: scott.barrett@nikko-kasei.com.



**Nikko baits bring smiles
to fishermen around the world.**

NIKKO
Next Generation Soft Baits

HOW Supporting Member News

The WOOX Solo Axe Combines 85 Years of Style, Craft and Performance

Hickory, NC – WOOX, producer of exceptional firearms stocks, knives and axes made in Italy and assembled in the U.S.A, has the mission of manufacturing premium products for outdoor enthusiasts. Case in point – the new Solo axe from WOOX. Less than two pounds in weight yet bearing a load of utility, the Solo is the multi-use axe for backcountry explorers who demand maximum use from their gear.



The head arrives absolutely sharp on two edges, ideal for a variety of cutting applications from trimming limbs, creating kindling or clearing a camping area. The sharpened beard is useful for clearing walkways and trails from small intruding branches and can be used for clearing lush vegetation by making cross-body sweeps.

The chisel-tipped mattock blade is excellent for trimming bark, trenching and backcountry jobs where shaping large pieces of wood is useful. The pipe-backed topline of the mattock serves as reinforcement to reduce wear and damage from accidental contact with the ground while also providing a grip point if choking up on the head for crafting tasks.

The chisel-tipped mattock blade is excellent for trimming bark, trenching and backcountry jobs where shaping large pieces of wood is useful. The pipe-backed topline of the mattock serves as reinforcement to reduce wear and damage from accidental contact with the ground while also providing a grip point if choking up on the head for crafting tasks.

Specifications:

Head:	Tempered carbon steel (C45/1045)
Edge:	Convex
Head Size:	8.25" long X 3.5" tall, Blade width: 0.5" Adz width: 1.5"
Handle:	Appalachian hickory
OAL:	19"
Weight:	1.85 pounds

Multi-useful.

Two incredibly sharp cutting edges and a mattock for the most utility in a backcountry axe.



This axe is an elegant multi-purpose implement for hunters, campers and explorers that can withstand the rigors of backcountry adventuring. Go beyond the backyard with the new Solo axe from WOOX. To learn more about WOOX, visit www.wooxstore.com.

Media Contact: Chip Hunnicutt, V.P. Marketing and General Manager,
Email: chip@wooxcompany.com, phone: 585-789-0668.

HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Al's Goldfish Company - www.alsgoldfish.com
Ankor Fishing Gear - www.ankorfishing.com
Archery Trade Association - www.archerytrade.org
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.toyotanewsroom.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

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

2024 ATA Show:

(www.archerytrade.org)

St. Louis, MO

January 11-13, 2024

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*.