

The Blade

November - December 2023

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Whitetail deer on high alert", photo by Tom Berg



Hoosier Outdoor Writers

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

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On the cover: A young whitetail deer buck and one of this year's fawns stop at the edge of a cut cornfield to watch and listen for danger. The early morning sunlight lit up the buck's head just enough to make it shine, and also lit up some of the leaves of the trees behind him. Photo by Tom Berg.



President's Message

by Jarrett Manek

Share the Outdoors

Season's greetings to all, and warm tidings. This is one of my favorite times of the year. As an outdoorsman, I can pick and choose among my many outdoor hobbies. Of course, deer season is an obvious one, however if it were not for sitting in the tree stand or watching an early sunrise over a spread of duck decoys, I would be embarking on the cold water of the Ohio River in search of sauger. During these months those tasty fish are congregating around the mouth of creeks and points but unfortunately it coincides with deer season and no matter how many times I say to myself how nice it would be to get some venison in the freezer early, I delay and keep enjoying watching squirrels gather nuts for the winter in one of my tree stands. For me it is not about big trophies or an obsession with a large set of antlers. I have said and been told the phrase many times; "You cannot eat the antlers". For me it is more about the traditions of the pursuit, figuring out the animals, patterning them, reading trails and signs, and getting them close enough for them to know that you are in their territory. My satisfaction is usually more about the hunt itself than the harvest.

This is also the time of the year I get to catch up on one of my other long-time hobbies: taxidermy. It is always nice to get out to the workroom and bring something back to life (in a sense). Whether it is deer, turkeys, or some other creature, to put an artistic touch on recreating the essence of an animal as it once was, brings me satisfaction and some relaxation.

No matter what your wintertime hobbies are, it is important to get out and enjoy our outdoors and share it with others, especially our youth. It has not been any secret that I have been fully invested in my kids to teach them the outdoors. I have made time to take and teach their friends and encourage other fathers, mothers and grandparents to do the same.

Practicing what I preach, my daughter (age 17) and I were finally able to have some redemption from youth deer season. Despite her kicking me out of my tree stand and not letting me at least sit with her during the regular opening weekend of gun season, I had the pleasure to watch her harvest a nice eight pointer from across the field. It was a deer that I would have been happy to harvest myself, but I took more pleasure in watching her make a great decision on her own with a close, perfect shot. Not only did she harvest it, but she wanted to field dress it as well. And with some coaching, she did a wonderful job. Now she will benefit from the harvest with some venison pepperjack cheese salami and snack sticks as well as other options throughout the year. It may not have been the deer she passed on youth season or the larger one she pursued during archery and was within 50 yards of, but it was a very respectable buck and her male classmates were extremely impressed! Plus, I had the privilege of watching it all from afar.



The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents and Memorial Section

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

Brent Drinkut (Active)
Indianapolis, IN
Sponsor: John Maxwell

Holly Lawson (Active)
Indianapolis, IN
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



Annual HOW Conference

Make Plans Now To Attend The 2024 Annual Conference!

As announced in previous issues of *The Blade*, the 2024 HOW Conference will be held in Indianapolis, in conjunction with the start of the Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show at the state fairgrounds. The annual meeting itself 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. The conference will take place over the weekend of **February 16-17, 2024** (Friday and Saturday), with the main meeting scheduled for Saturday, February 17.

Although we enjoy moving the HOW conference around the state to explore new and interesting places, it's also nice to occasionally go back to our roots and have the conference in Indianapolis again – just like we did for many years. It will also be nice to have the conference on the opening weekend of the Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show again, so HOW members can spend time exploring all that the show has to offer.

The conference will be here before you know it, so it's time for you to start making plans to attend! See page 8 for a copy of the conference registration form. We will have plenty of interesting seminars and speakers at the conference, as usual, and there will be activities which everyone can enjoy, too. And don't forget about the famous HOW Raffle, either! The raffle at the meeting last year at McCormick's Creek State Park was absolutely great, and we are hoping it will be even better this year at the fairgrounds!

As usual, HOW members and guests may attend as much or as little of the conference as their schedules allow. Many members come only for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, and that's fine. For those who are interested in arriving early for the conference, we will have our annual HOW Fun Shoot on Friday afternoon (February 16). 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.

(continued next page)

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.

Here is a brief preview of the speakers who are lined-up to make presentations at the conference:

- **Mounds State Park and Indiana's Pre-history**

Kelley Morgan is the interpretive naturalist at Mounds State Park. She will talk about this interesting state park, but she will also include fascinating information on Indiana's history, especially in this area.

Mounds State Park, located in Anderson Indiana, is one of the best preserved Adena and Hopewell archaeological sites in the state. Interpretive Naturalist Kelley Morgan will guide us through pre-history from the peopling of the Americas to the cultures that began earthwork creation – and how Mounds State Park fits into that landscape. She also discuss the fall of the Native American civilization just prior to European contact.

- **What's New in the DNR Division of Communications**

Holly Lawson is the communications director for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR). She joined the IDNR in December of 2022. In her presentation, she will discuss priority initiatives and updates from the Indiana DNR, as well as provide tips on how to best access information from the Indiana DNR through its website, smartphone app, and staff members.

- **Creating A New Generation of Bat Advocates**

Brad Westrich is the state mammalogist for the Indiana DNR, Division of Fish & Wildlife. He will help us learn about the different species of bats that live throughout Indiana's varied habitats. Find out what bats are doing across Indiana's different environments and how they are helping everyday Hoosiers.

Westrich will help us explore ongoing research and bat monitoring programs that DNR and a handful of dedicated Hoosiers have participated in, and get the scoop on future monitoring programs state-wide. Through this presentation, the state mammalogist hopes HOW members will find something interesting to share with our readers about Indiana's bats and their habits, because it is up to all of us to help generate positive opinions towards bats.

- **Fire on the Landscape – Friend or Foe?**

Stephen Creech retired from the Indiana Division of Forestry, and during his tenure he held many titles, including state fire coordinator and countless other fire-related jobs. When it comes to fire on the landscape, he is a real expert. In his presentation, he will describe how for nearly 200-years Americans have treated landscape fire as evil and something to be controlled/suppressed at all costs. Applying this logic has been successful on one hand, but detrimental on the other. Most of the ecosystems in this country developed from and are maintained with fire. These "fire dependent" ecosystems include America's giant sequoia groves, ponderosa and lodgepole pine stands, southern pine forests, native grasslands, desert shrub and lake states white and red pine forests. Closer to home, here in Indiana, it includes our oak and hickory forests, glades, fens, prairies and barrens. These ecosystems are not only born of fire, but need fire to maintain their status and composition.

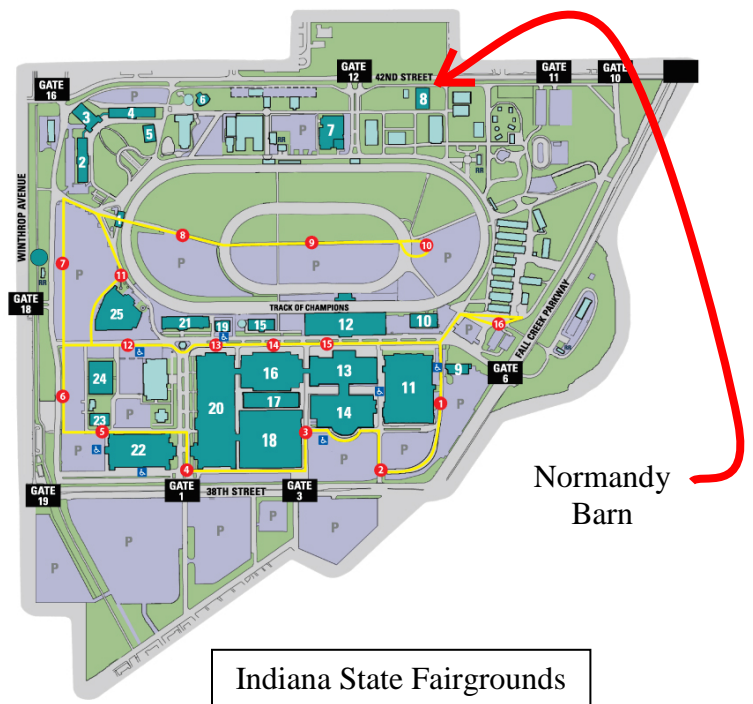
Ecosystems are truly systems. Everything is linked and removing or changing one part of that system, changes the whole. This presentation will look at the historical significance of fire and discuss where we go from here. Indiana is losing its oak/hickory forests at an alarming rate. These forests, perhaps more than any other ecosystem, are home to some unique and now endangered plants and animals. We have lost a lot during the last two centuries and we will not get it back overnight. Reintroducing fire to the landscape will not be popular or easy, but it is a must!

In addition to the interesting seminars and speakers at this conference, we will also announce the winners of the annual HOW Awards-in-Craft contests. **Toyota Motor Sales** has once again graciously agreed to sponsor the writing, photography and broadcast contests, so there will be cash prizes for the winners again this year. And speaking of contests, the Indiana **Turn in a Poacher (TIP) Citizen's Advisory Board** has again sponsored a writing contest to encourage HOW members to promote the TIP mission this year (see details on page 14).

During the business meeting portion of the conference, we will conduct our annual elections and elect new officers and board members. After the elections are completed, we will all enjoy a buffet lunch prepared by the fairgrounds caterer.

More details on the conference will be forthcoming in the next edition 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 Indiana State Fairgrounds will definitely be worth it. So start making your plans now. If you do plan to stay overnight, you will need to make your own hotel reservations since we do not have a host hotel for the conference.

Don't miss the 2024 HOW Conference!



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INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Annual Conference Registration



Where/When: The Normandy Barn located inside the Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, IN. Conference dates: February 16-17, 2024.

This registration form is for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 17th (8:00am – 4:30pm)

Information to appear on name badge:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Spouse's Name (if attending): _____

Contact information:

Mailing Address: _____

City or Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Are you a first-time HOW conference attendee? _____

Early Bird Conference Registration Fees:

(Early Bird pricing good until January 17 only. After January 17, add \$5.00 each to register)

HOW Members (and spouses): \$35.00 each (\$35 X number attending) = _____

Non-HOW Members: \$40.00 each (\$40 X number attending) = _____

The conference fee at the door will be \$50.00 (so be sure to register before the conference!)

Conference fee includes continental breakfast and buffet lunch on February 17, 2024.

Please print this application and mail it along with your check for each person attending (make check payable to “Hoosier Outdoor Writers”) to:

**Tom Berg
2142 Nondorf Street
Dyer, IN 46311-1829**

Questions? Email all conference questions to Tom Berg: thomas.berg@comcast.net

The Annual HOW Fun Shoot

The 2024 HOW Conference will begin (as usual) with the HOW Fun Shoot. It has become a tradition for the shooters in our membership to get together and break a few clay targets, have some fun and renew old friendships on the Friday before the Annual Meeting. We



HOW member takes aim at the Indiana Gun Club during the 2020 HOW Fun Shoot. Photo by Tom Berg.

usually have all levels of shooters participating, from beginners to near-expert, so don't think you are not good enough to join us. All skill levels are welcome.

Since the 2024 HOW Conference will be held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, we will be returning to the **Indiana Gun Club** where we have held this event many times in the past. Last year we enjoyed some trapshooting at the Spencer Conservation Club near Spencer, Indiana. This year we will either shoot sporting clays or skeet. The weather will likely be cold, so the shooters may opt for a couple rounds of skeet instead of a full round of sporting clays. After all, the skeet range is much closer to the clubhouse and we can warm up between rounds! Either way, it should be a lot of fun.

This year's shoot will take place on Friday, February 16 at 12:30pm (Indy time) and start shooting at 1:00pm. That should give us plenty of time to finish shooting and clean up before either heading to the Boat, Sport & Travel Show or going to the Friday evening press reception (we are still working on that).

We haven't figured out the cost yet, but it will be whatever the gun club normally charges. Sporting clays (100 targets) will cost more than skeet since skeet is just 25 targets per round. You can pay the club's cashier when we arrive.

As always, we will be shooting rain or shine (or snow), but if it is super cold we may try to warm up between rounds by ducking into the clubhouse.

The gun club is located northeast of the park at 14926 E 113th St, Fortville, IN. To get to the gun club, take I465 to I69 and head northeast to E. 116th Street in Fishers. Turn right (east) and go about five miles until you reach Olio Road. Turn right and then make a quick left onto 113th Street. Follow this road for a mile and the gun club will be on your left.

Happily, we already have a Fun Shoot sponsor this year – **Winchester Ammunition**. Last year we did not have a sponsor, so we are happy that Winchester has graciously agreed to donate the ammunition to all HOW members who would like to shoot.



So if you plan to attend, please send me an email ASAP at thomas.berg@comcast.net (if you have not already done so) to let me know you are coming and what gauge of shotgun you plan to use (12GA or 20GA). I need to order the ammunition in advance so we get it in time for the event.

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

The 2024 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

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

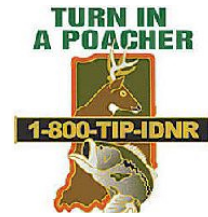
TOYOTA MOTOR SALES

**For sponsoring the 2024
HOW Awards-In-Craft Contests**





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>



Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

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

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

Report from Mike Lunsford:

HOW board member Mike Lunsford spends dozens of hours each month on the move with his camera, much of the time on the lookout for opportunities to photograph birds. Luckily, he had to go no farther than his cabin deck to get this photo of a female **Summer Tanager** (*Piranga rubra*) in late September as she landed in a nearby poplar tree (could be an immature male, too).

Adult male summer tanagers are prized for their bright red plumage, but it is the yellow-green female that apparently does all of the heavy lifting when it comes to sustaining the family. Females build and maintain the nest, which is lined with very fine grasses, but both parents feed their young. Tanagers have no fear of even the fiercest stinging insects and have been known to be a pest for bee keepers since they enjoy eating bees. Tanagers have even been observed breaking into wasp nests with little regard for what awaits them.

“I was really lucky to see this bird where and when I did,” Lunsford says, “because they tend to stay fairly high in trees, and, as anyone can see, they like to hide in the foliage of trees. This bird was just at my place for a short time. She’ll spend her winter in Mexico.”



Above: A female summer tanager stopped for a moment to rest on a branch on Mike Lunsford's property.
Below Left: A colorful purple finch poses for a photo before flying away.



Lunsford also found a **Purple Finch** (*Haemorhous purpureus*) on a recent hike through his woods in early December. In the photo at left, a male purple finch looks into a neighboring tree for its mate. Purple finches, not as common as house finches, are seen in Indiana during the winter months, but the likelihood of it increases if there is a supply of black oil sunflower seeds nearby.

Purple finches are nearing endangered status, partly due to logging. “I see a lot of goldfinches and house finches, but I tend to get much more excited when I see a purple finch because of their striking color and the fact that with just one brood a year, they aren’t nearly as numerous,” Lunsford says. Like the females of many bird species, the female purple finch is much more bland-looking than the male. She has no red or purple coloring at all. This likely helps camouflage her as she sits on her nest.

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

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

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

For immediate release: November 9, 2023

Falls of the Ohio State Park Opens Outdoor Classroom

Falls of the Ohio State Park has opened a new outdoor classroom, which is located off the park's Woodland Loop Trail.

The classroom was designed to create a dedicated space for learning in a natural environment that connects visitors, school groups, and others to the Falls of the Ohio's unique landscape and historical significance. It is covered by the forest's tree canopy and includes large driftwood logs for seating as well as a limestone boulder arrangement for exploration and fossil identification.

Lessons that will be taught in the classroom include the mammoth and bison that crossed the falls on their migrations, the Indigenous people who settled here, the landscape's connection to the Underground Railroad, and the start of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

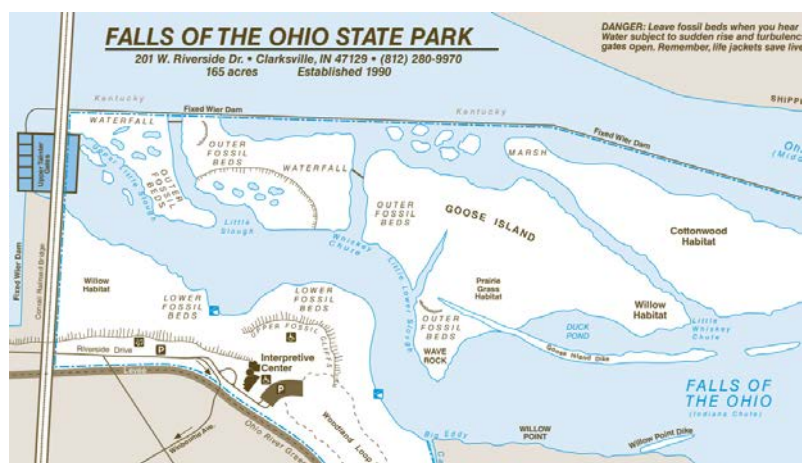
The outdoor classroom was made possible through the generosity of the Duke Energy Foundation and Mark Wood, Irving Materials, Inc.; and with support from the Falls of the Ohio Foundation, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and the state park.

Wooden, executive director of the [Falls of the Ohio Foundation](#). "There is no other place in the world like the Falls of the Ohio. This new outdoor classroom will help connect the Falls' rich history and the stories of our past to the thousands of visitors that come here to learn and experience this special landscape."

"The future of our state parks lies in the experiences visitors have at our sites today," said Terry Coleman, director of Indiana State Parks. "It is our honor to introduce students, families, and all guests to the history, science and stories that connect us to the land. And we are thankful for partners like the Falls of the Ohio Foundation and Duke Energy who help us bring those experiences to life."

Visit on.IN.gov/fallsoftheohio to learn about upcoming events and special programs at the state park.

Media contact: Ginger Murphy, deputy director, state parks, email: gmurphy@dnr.IN.gov, or phone: 317-232-4143.



The Last Old Growth Animal in Indiana

Date: Tuesday, January 23

Time: 6:00—7:00 pm EST

Speaker: Allen Pursell,
Director of Forest Programs,
Sam Shine Foundation, Inc.

Location: Hoosier National Forest Office, 811 Constitution Ave., Bedford, IN

Deadline to RSVP: Friday, 1/19

RSVP: Bedford Parks Dept.,
Autumn Ray or Gary Dorsett
Phone: 812-275-5692

Livestream available at:
facebook.com/HoosierNF/

USDA is an equal opportunity/equal access provider, employer, and lender

Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access affirmative action institution

Is it possible that an animal specially adapted to old-growth forest is still out there?



This presentation will make the case that indeed such an animal still exists in Indiana.

How could it have survived all these years? We'll need to start with what the forest was like prior to European settlement. Native Americans, fire, passenger pigeons, bison, and more, are all part of this story.



Cisco Fishing Can Be Easy – Or Not

by Mike Schoonveld

Just when I thought I had it figured out, I found out there's more to cisco fishing at Grand Traverse Bay than I thought!

It reminds me of the time an acquaintance told me, "I took a charter on Lake Michigan once. The fishing was easy. We left the harbor, the captain and mate set some lines and our group caught fish all morning." He looked puzzled when I said, "Did you ever stop to think that maybe the captain knew what he was doing and was very good at it?" Chances are, when a guy makes fishing look easy, he's probably very good at what he's doing. There's a reason for the old adage: "Ten percent of the fishermen catch 90 percent of the fish."

Before my latest trip to Grand Traverse Bay, I'd been cisco fishing exactly twice. Each time, there seemed to be plenty of fish and they seemed willing to bite – easy fishing.

The first time I fished for ciscoes was a few years earlier when a friend and I headed to GTB on an impromptu trip. We only had a few hours to fish and not much more info than "Head south from the boat launch, look for a dock on the shore with a flag pole and fish in 100 feet of water out from the dock."

In the short time we had to fish we caught a handful of ciscoes and a whitefish. I didn't think I'd become an accomplished cisco angler, but I did learn the fish were sporty fighters and they were tasty on the table.

A year later, Tom Berg and I were at the AGLOW conference in Gaylord, MI and used this as an opportunity to schedule a cisco fishing outing with Capt. Bob Hinds, operator of Central Coast Angling charters. He made it look easy. We left the boat ramp, motored out in the bay where Hinds quickly spotted a school of fish on his sonar and we spot-locked over them. We dropped our jigging spoons into the school and hooked up almost instantly. Repeat, repeat, repeat and in short order we were back at the dock with our limits.

I realized it was more than just luck so I watched what the captain was doing, and how he used his electronics to locate and stay on the fish. I noted the lures we were using and asked plenty of questions. I was confident I'd be able to go back on my own and catch some cisco without relying on blind luck or a local professional captain.

Some friends and I planned a two-day excursion in late October and arrived full of optimism. Our optimism waned quickly that first day and my confidence was in the tank after a couple of hours. We were fishing the same general area I'd fished with Capt. Hinds, we had similar electronics and similar tackle, but the fish weren't behaving as expected. There were also no big schools of suspended fish like we'd targeted on my previous trips.

Experienced captains always have a plan when they hit the water, but they are quick to realize when that plan isn't working. We had a Plan A and we tried several variations to see if we could get the plan jump-started. With just a couple hours left on Day One, we scrapped Plan A and switched to trolling tactics. The boat was set up for trolling and we had some trolling gear along. Would our Plan B pay off? Immediate success seemed to say yes. As soon as we set our two downriggers, bingo! One of the downrigger rods started bouncing. I grabbed it and caught a cisco. "Now we're on 'em," I thought. But when it was time to head in, we still only had one cisco in the livewell.

We continued trolling on Day Two, working to refine our Plan B. We tried spoons, spinners and plugs, eventually finding small silver or mostly silver spoons got the most hits. As we narrowed down our lure choices, dialed in the trolling speed and zeroed in on the most productive depths, our success improved. The result wasn't the easy limits we'd hoped for, but we ended the trip more confident than we started. How confident? When I go back next year I'll make it look easy.



Above: Curt McAllister from Toyota (left) and Capt. Mike Schoonveld lift two ciscoes and a whitefish they caught on GTB. **Below:** Mike Schoonveld (left) and Tom Berg reel up a cisco double-header a couple of years ago.



HOW Member News

HOW Members Enjoy The 2023 Deer Season

Alan Garbers (Prescott, AZ)

This report is from avid western deer hunter and HOW Past President Alan Garbers:

“Deer hunting with a firearm in Arizona is limited,” said Garbers. “A hunter has to apply for the unit they want to hunt and then wait for the draw. My wife Dianna and I have been lucky and were drawn for the unit we live in for the past two years.”

“We are also lucky because we live on land bordering the Prescott National Forest (PNF), and when we step out our back door, it’s roughly 20 miles of hills, valleys, and piñon-juniper forests, including the Granite Mountain Wilderness area. Mountain lions, bobcats, javelina, black bears, coyotes, quail, jackrabbits, cottontails and mule deer await the patient hunter willing to hike where few people go.”

“Unfortunately, my knees are shot. Testing shows they are bone on bone. I now wear knee braces, and walking long distances in broken country is not feasible. To make my hunt easier, I put two camp chairs in locations overlooking grassy valleys in hopes of seeing deer feeding. In the past two seasons, that never happened.”

“However, we frequently see mule deer passing through the private property a half mile to our west, heading towards the PNF. Three years ago, I hiked to the location where they should be passing just across the fence in the PNF and found an area somewhat lush by Arizona standards. Unfortunately, the hike includes finding a way around a wash that wouldn’t have stopped me 20 years ago. Now, it may as well be the Grand Canyon!”

“After days of not seeing anything from my chair locations, I decided to hike to where deer should be crossing, come heck, or high water. If I got a deer down, I would worry about getting it out later.”

“On the second to the last day of the season, I mentally prepared myself for the hike and started walking with my 7mm Remington Magnum. Much to my surprise, I saw a mule deer buck looking at me from 75 yards away! As I raised my rifle, I prayed he would stay still for one more step so I could clear some chaparral.”

“When I fired, the deer dropped as if struck by Thor’s Hammer! The 168-grain Berger bullet had done its job (I hand load and have a sub-MOA load). Fortune favored me as I was still in sight of our house, too. With Dianna’s help, I loaded the deer in a cart and got it back to the garage so I could process it.”

“There are larger deer in the area, but he’s the biggest mule deer I have ever harvested and my first since 1985. He was the answer to my prayers, and my knees thank the Almighty!



Alan Garbers poses with the fine mule deer he harvested in Arizona this year. Photo by Dianna Garbers.

2023 Deer Season Continued

Vikki Trout (Jasper, IN)

HOW member Vikki Trout had another productive deer season this year, and she tagged her buck during archery season. Here is her report:

“I will be the first to admit that food plots are quite capable of producing wonderful results,” commented Trout. “Especially if they are done correctly. I have been working on improvements for the last couple of years and finally think my food plots are what deer and turkey prefer!”

“This buck was heading in my direction as though he were on a mission. As he walked, he browsed briefly, then put his nose to the ground and immediately picked up the pace. There had been a doe with two young ones earlier and it was quite obvious he picked up their scent.”

“I knew I had to do something to get him to stop, so I gently bleated when he was about 25 yards and broadside to me. He hesitated and I released the arrow. I am pretty proud of him, and getting him with my bow made it extra special.”



Vikki trout admires the great high-tined buck that she harvested in the 2023 fall season. Vikki Trout photo.

Rick Bramwell (Pendleton, IN)

HOW Past President Rick Bramwell had an eventful deer reduction hunt this year:

“My Whitewater State Park deer reduction hunt was on a Monday and Tuesday,” recalled Bramwell. “I hunted with my friend Larry Lawson, and we were on stands near a refuge. Other hunters would have driven multiple deer our way in years past. This time, farmers provided a safe harbor with standing corn.”

“I was on a hillside overlooking a bottom with thick undergrowth. Larry was in a tree stand about 130 yards away. Beyond him was the upper reaches of Brookville Reservoir, which was already lowered to winter pool. To our backs was a refuge that seemed too thick for man or beast.”

“At about 8:30am, I saw movement; two does were approaching through the bottom. I found the first one in my scope and put it down with my Mossberg .450 Bushmaster. The other deer ran towards a gully in a treestand at the far side of the bottom. He shot it.”

“I had a chance to speak with that fellow later in the day. He saw the two deer were headed for me and decided to pass on a pretty good shot to give me a chance. His sportsmanship worked for both of us.”

“Three more deer came in above me and detected my scent. One was a buck; he ran near Larry, who couldn’t get a good shot. Eventually, another doe came near me, but I was in the wrong position for a left-handed shooter. Had I tried to shift the gun to my right side, the deer would have noticed my movement. She quickly moved out of sight.”

“Neither Lawson nor I had any opportunities after that. Most of the shooting had stopped by noon. Larry counted 34 shots. We heard a total of 30 deer were reported taken.”

2023 Deer Season Continued

Tom Berg (Dyer, IN)

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg was lucky enough to have a productive deer season again this year. Here is his report:

“I had a successful hunt on opening morning of the firearms season,” said Berg. “After sitting in the deer stand for only two hours, a buck came into view in the field to the east – but he was 175 yards away. My Henry .308 rifle could handle a shot like that, but my eyes are not as good as they once were and I prefer a shot of about 100 yards. Maybe 150 yards max.”

“As I watched, the buck slowly started walking in my direction, stopping periodically to feed. I have a laser rangefinder, and when he got to 110 yards he stopped and turned broadside to me. Suddenly, I could feel my pulse pounding in my head. ‘Oh no,’ I thought. ‘It’s buck fever!’ I laughed to myself and tried to calm down a bit. It took several seconds, but I settled down and aimed the rifle at the deer. I squeezed the trigger and the deer instantly humped up, so I was certain I hit him.”

“After the shot, he immediately started trotting straight towards me. He didn’t act injured at that point, so I began to wonder whether or not I really hit him. I got ready to shoot again, just in case. He stopped trotting towards me when he was about 50 yards away, then turned broadside to me. As soon as he turned, he stumbled a little. That’s when I knew I would not need to shoot again. He only took two more steps after that.”

“After the buck was gutted and hanging in the pole barn, later that afternoon I was back in the tree stand. I wanted to try for a doe since I had bought both a buck tag and a doe tag. I didn’t get a shot at a doe before it got dark, so I knew I would be back out first thing in the morning.”

“Early the next morning I walked out to the deer stand in the dark and got myself set up. For me, just after dawn seems to be the best time to see deer. Legal shooting started at 6:11am that morning, but from 6:00am until 6:45 I saw no deer at all.”

“At 6:46am I saw a small group of does come out of the woods to the west, about 225 yards away. It looked like two mature does and two yearling fawns. The fawns had no spots on them, but they were definitely smaller than the others. A few minutes later two more does or fawns came out. Then a small



Tom Berg smiles over the buck he harvested on opening morning of firearms season. Photo courtesy of Tom Berg.

(continued on next page)

2023 Deer Season Continued



Tom Berg pauses for a photo with the whitetail doe he harvested on the second day of Indiana's firearms season. Photo courtesy of Tom Berg.

buck walked out from the treeline and joined them. It looked like he was a 6-pointer.”

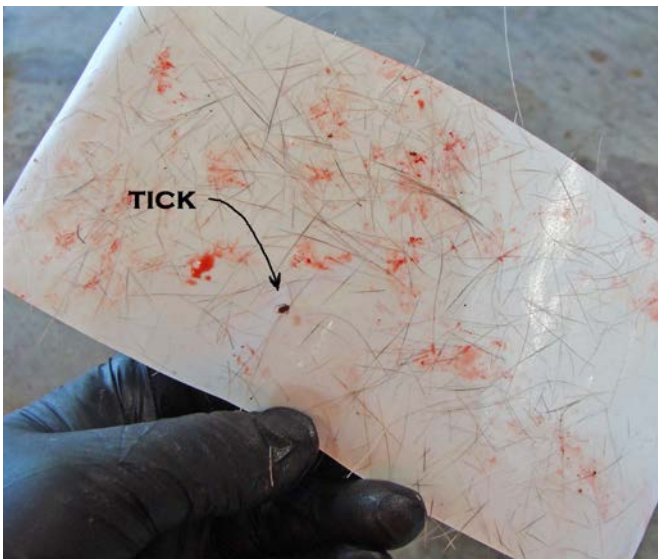
“I was happy to see that the group of seven deer were very slowly moving in my direction. It took them about 15 minutes before they got within 100 yards, and I had my gun ready. Suddenly, they started getting agitated and within a minute or so they had closed the distance to 50 yards between us. Then one of the larger does decided to trot out right in front of my treestand and stop, and that’s when I pulled the trigger.”

“As soon as the shot rang out she took off to the north. The other six deer followed her, but she only made it about 50 yards before she fell. The other deer didn't know what to make of it, so they turned around and ran back, right out in front of me again! Luckily for them both of my tags were filled, and I don't need another deer anyway. So that's when I got out my camera and started shooting pictures!”

“I used my favorite deer rifle for both of these hunts: a Henry lever-action .308 Long Ranger rifle with a Hawke scope. It is super accurate and fun to shoot. I was happy to be able to put enough

meat in the freezer to last my family for the next year. Luckily, we like venison!”

“This year while processing my deer I used a new product from one of HOW’s newest Supporting Members: GameGrip tape from Wild Tech. This food-safe tape can be used to remove hair, dirt and other debris from game meat during processing. I found that it did a good job on removing most of the hair that was stuck to the deer carcass after skinning. It even pulled off a tiny live tick that I hadn’t seen!”



2023 Deer Season Continued

John Martino (Kokomo, IN)

Here is a “short and sweet” report from long-time deer hunter and HOW Nomination Chairman and Past President John Martino:

“I’m always happy when I’m enjoying our outdoor resources, and I am extremely thankful for our freedom to do so,” said Martino.

He exercised his freedom to hunt earlier this fall during the Indiana archery season for deer, and we think he was quite successful, too.

“I harvested this buck during a morning hunt with my crossbow,” he said. “I had passed on several smaller bucks before this one showed up.”

It looks like the decision to wait for a bigger buck paid off this year. Congratulations, John!



Joe Martino (Kokomo, IN)

Here is a report from serious deer hunter and HOW member Joe Martino:

“My son Nicholas and I have had great success so far this fall,” stated Joe Martino. “This year, I killed a great bull elk with my bow in Colorado on a DIY hunt on public land. My life-long dream of harvesting a bull elk as an archery hunter has been fulfilled!”

“On the first day of our elk hunt, the bulls were bugling and active. After that first day, though, they went silent. On the third day, I decided to do something different and hunted a wallow. I was hoping to catch an elk or a bear coming in to it.”

“On the evening hunt, I cow-called periodically but got no bugles in return. So then I bugled once expecting similar results, and a bull kind of growled less than two hundred yards above me.”

“I called to him for about 30 minutes as he circled around me trying to get downwind of me. When I finally heard him bugle again, he was within bow range! Suddenly, I saw his rack coming through the brush. I saw him at 60 yards as he made his way right towards me. I shot him at 5 yards as he was looking around for the other elk he thought he heard.”

(continued next page)

2023 Deer Season Continued

“I watched him take off and a few seconds later, he piled up in the brush about 70 yards away. It was only an hour or so before dark, so we had our work cut out for us to pack out the meat. Black bears are everywhere there – we see dozens each year, and we sometimes shoot one or two as we have tags for them as well. I wasn’t too worried about them as Nicholas and my two buddies met up with me at dark to help with the pack-out.”

“We had to dress, skin and quarter the animal and pack it out with pack frames and several trips. Thank goodness there was an ATV trail about a half-mile away, so our pack-out wasn’t too far, but it was still morning before we finished.”

“I’m not sure how much the big bull weighed. I’ve read where adult bulls can weigh 700-900 pounds, and I’ve also read where they can weigh up to 1100 pounds or more. If I had to guess, I’d say he weighed close to 1,000 pounds. He was easily 5-6 times bigger than any deer I’ve ever shot.”

Our deer season here in Indiana was fun, but yielded few sightings of big deer. A day or two before the firearms opener, my son Nick saw a giant buck 10 yards behind him, but couldn’t get a shot.



Joe Martino with his bull elk. “They are so big and heavy, there’s just no moving them around for photos,” he said. “How they fall is what you get!” Photo courtesy of Joe Martino.



Nicholas Martino is all smiles with his trophy whitetail buck. Photo by Joe Martino.

On opening day of firearms season, Nick took his muzzleloader and went to a different stand. At 7:30am, I heard him shoot, so I knew it was a big deer since it was so early. After an hour of searching, there was no evidence that he had hit the deer with his 60-yard shot through the thick woods, but I knew better. Something just told me he did. We finally found blood 150 yards away and tracked the deer for a few hundred yards before losing blood. We almost gave up, but eventually found the buck after literally tripping over him on the way back to the truck! Talk about luck!

Nicholas thinks that may be the buck he saw a few days before. We don’t run trail cameras, so

he had not seen the deer before that. It’s another great buck for him – and his best one yet.”

Bramwell Undergoes Heart Surgery to Replace Faulty Aortic Valve

HOW Past President Rick Bramwell underwent aortic valve replacement surgery in early December. The doctors sent him home the next day! Here is his story:

“On an annual check-up in 1971, my doctor put a stethoscope to my chest and said, ‘Your heart valve is ticking like a clock.’ He sent me to cardiologist Pretham Jetty. Dr. Jetty said, ‘Your aortic heart valve is going bad; within three to five years, it will need to be replaced.’ This was after he had examined a scan. I began having annual visits with Dr. Jetty.”

“Going into my senior years, I’ve tried to keep in shape by going to the gym several times a week. When I was 71 my daughter entered me into “The New Year, New You” contest at the gym. The four-month contest to see who lost the most fat and gained the most muscle ended on May 1. A personnel trainer used a knotted plow line to whip us into shape. When I entered the gym in early May, the staff rushed to meet me. They presented me with a certificate for winning the contest and a check for \$100.”

“I stayed with the exercise and coached high school-age girls fast-pitch softball. I threw batting practice and shagged balls. I was always in great shape come deer season. My family physician was a personal friend. He often told me I was a model for folks my age.”

“My annual check-up in 2023 was done in September. Dr. Jetty ordered another electrocardiogram. A few hours later he called and said you need to come back in tomorrow at noon. He was the only one there. His staff was gone to lunch. I still felt great, but knew he had bad news.”

“Dr. Jetty said, ‘Your aortic valve is wearing out and is extremely calcified.’ He drew a diagram to show me how the valve works. He told me my heart muscle was pushing hard just to get the valve partially open. In a year’s time, my heart muscle would enlarge, causing even more problems. Dr. Jetty continued, “You are still in good shape and could wait until the first of the year.’ He likened my heart valve to a valve in an automobile. ‘Do you think the valve in your truck could last 79 years?’”

“My valve would be replaced with a pig or calf valve attached to a metal base. They fold the valve in a cylinder and go through a vein at your right groin. It is forced in place over your old valve. The heart does not miss a beat. The team of cardiologists at Community North Heart and Vascular has done nearly 600 of these procedures with only one mishap. The chance of failure is only 1.5 percent.”

“The operation took place on December 5 at 7:30am and only lasted an hour. I was never in any pain, other than the needle sticks. However, I was in discomfort. I could not empty my bladder and had to be catheterized several times.”

“The doctors released me at about 11:00am the next day. My son took me home and I slept for 12 hours. Someone needs to stay with you 24/7 for three days and you cannot drive for two weeks. Afterward, I will receive two months of rehab.”

“My physicians tell me there will be newfound energy in this aged body, and this procedure could give me another ten years of quality life. Had I not chosen to have the valve replaced, the cardiologists would have given me less than two years to live.”

UPDATE:

On December 23, Rick Bramwell went rabbit hunting with one of his good friends – after having heart surgery on December 5. In a few months he will turn 80! Way to go, Rick!



Rick Bramwell after a morning of hunting rabbits on December 23rd.

Hoffman Cruises Alaska's National Parks

Alaska contains a whopping 60% of the nation's national park land, most of which is untouched wilderness. However, hundreds of thousands of visitors happily experience Alaska's national parks from the deck of a luxury cruise ship.

HOW member Dave Hoffman and his wife Judy recently booked their fourth Alaska cruise to relax after their recent move to a new home. "We just can't get enough of Alaska," said Dave. "We looked forward to photographing the glaciers as well as the abundant wildlife."

Most cruisers visit Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve since it's only 65 miles from Juneau, and can be accessed not only by cruise ships, but also tour and charter boats as well as charter aircraft. "Over a half-million visitors per year come to see and hear the shotgun-like sound of glaciers calving as described during John Muir's 1879 visit to Glacier Bay," said Dave. "Visitors are also mesmerized by the sight of the brilliant blue ice of the glacier."



Following a loud cracking or booming sound from Hubbard Glacier, photographers raise their cameras to capture ice crashing into the water in a process known as "calving."

Farther up the coast lies Hubbard Glacier, part of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, our largest national park at 13.2 million acres. Called the "Galloping Glacier" the constant movement of Hubbard Glacier



contrasts with the retreating glaciers across the world. Calving is frequent along the 400-600' glacial wall, much to the delight of sightseers.

It's also common to see Steller sea lions on shore at rocky "haul-out" spots near the glaciers. Steller sea lions are the largest member of the family Otariidae, the "eared seals" which include all sea lions and fur seals.

Frequent flocks of birds flying overhead also keep your attention, but the stars of the show are the humpback whales. "This year we were treated to an exceptional display of playful antics by several of the whales, including slapping their

(continued next page)

flukes against the surface of the water, as well as raising a flipper in preparation for a “pec-slap,” said Dave.



Although not visited by the large cruise ships, a wider variety of photo opportunities are available to nature enthusiasts from the Park Service narrated boat tours from the port of Seward to Kenai Fjords National Park. In addition to humpback whales and orcas, you can see puffins and nesting shorebirds, sea otters, sea lions, and an occasional bear.



Alan Garbers Ponders Trail Camera Use in Arizona

HOW Past President Alan Garbers lives in rural Arizona now, and as you can see by the mule deer buck he harvested this year shown on page 18, he enjoys deer hunting. While many of us use trail cameras as important tools here in Indiana, it is a little different in Arizona. Read on to find out more.

“When does technology cross the line of the concept of fair chase? In my opinion, we have reached that point,” said Garbers. “When living in Indiana, I had a love-hate relationship with trail cameras. I placed them in strategic locations on our property, hoping to see a nice buck before hunting season. But it impacted how I hunted.”

“If I saw a buck on the camera, I had a tendency to sit in the stand longer and ride out bad weather,” he continued. “If I didn’t see deer on the camera leading up to deer season, I felt defeated and tended to go back to the warmth of home sooner.”

“When we moved back to Arizona, I just knew I would get a massive mule deer each season – not! I put out trail cameras and did see lots of deer, lions, javelina, fox, skunk and squirrels. But, the Arizona Game and Fish Department enacted a regulation two years ago banning the use of trail cameras for hunting, including on private land. While that sounds awful, they had their reasons, and many, including outfitters and guides, praised the action.”



“Here in Arizona, water is life. Hunters would place cameras near water tanks (runoff ponds) to capture images of what was coming to the water. Makes sense, right? The problem arose when dozens of hunters did the same thing, often on the same tree. In some good locations, there might be 10 to 20 cameras stacked up on one tree!”

“This led to conflicts, and hunters started damaging cameras, stealing them, taking the SD cards, or spraying the lens with paint. Some late-season hunters even went to check their cameras during the ongoing hunt, to sabotage the other hunters in the area!”

“Some enterprising hunters sold their images with times and GPS locations to wealthy hunters who didn’t have the drive or time to do their own pre-season scouting.”

“Recently, word has come of an app developer using the metadata from photos posted on hunting websites to show the app user where their highest probability of success will be. Is that a copyright violation using someone else’s photo (or intellectual property)?”

“Have we crossed the line of fair chase? On the last two points, my opinion is yes.”

“As I write this, other western states are studying the situation with trail cameras. Some are battling in court to ban them as Arizona has. What will come of it? Where there’s a rule, there’s someone bending it. People still have cameras out around us. As long as the images are not used for hunting, it’s allowed.”

Mike Lunsford Photographs the Full Beaver Moon

HOW board member Mike Lunsford is well-known for his excellent bird photos, but he actually takes photos of many different things in the great Hoosier outdoors. One of those things is the moon. Although a stiff north wind and cold temperatures kept him from staying outdoors very long, Lunsford took this shot of the Full Beaver Moon on November 27. With good reason, Native Americans also referred to November's full moon as the "Frost Moon" or "Freezing Moon," but since American beavers tend to be taking shelter in their lodges and are storing fat for the winter by late in the month, the name has lasted for generations.



"I just can't get to a point where I use a monopod or tripod for these kinds of shots, so I was hopeful my shivering didn't keep me from getting this picture. I'm no astrophotographer, but I love to take pictures of the moon," Lunsford said.

We think it's a great shot. Congrats!

Lunsford to Contribute to *Indiana Connections Magazine*

Beginning in February 2024, HOW member Mike Lunsford will be a regular contributor to *Indiana Connections* magazine. Lunsford, who primarily writes for the *Terre Haute Tribune-Star* and *Terre Haute Living* magazine, will be one of several guest writers and photographers for IC's "Outdoors" column. The magazine, which "celebrates the rural and suburban Indiana lifestyle," reaches 310,000 Hoosier readers throughout the state each month.

Schoonveld Preps Wood Duck Nesting Box

HOW Past President Mike Schoonveld recently climbed a ladder to prep his old wood duck nesting box for the arrival of wood ducks next spring. This meant cleaning out the old sawdust, egg shells and other debris from this year, and adding new sawdust and wood shavings.

Although this task will benefit the next generation of wood ducks, it will also help out some other annual winter-time visitors to Schoonveld's property – eastern screech owls. Last winter a red-phase screech owl used this box, but gray-phase screech owls are also regulars.



John Martino Enjoys A Special First Hunt With Young GSP Maggie Mae

HOW Nominating Chairman John Martino loves dogs, especially bird dogs. He was happy to report there is a dog in the Martino household again.

“We have had dogs most of our lives,” explained Martino. “The last two dogs we had were pointers and through the years they both ended up passing away in my wife’s arms, succumbing to cancer. After losing our last dog named Liza, my wife couldn’t bear the heartache and made me promise our dog days were over.”

“Well, after several years of careful compassion (OK, maybe some coercion) we agreed it may be time for another pup.”

“After hunting over a friend’s German short-haired pointer for several years, I convinced him to have her bred, telling him I’d be good for two pups. Talking my wife into another puppy took some work, but convincing her we needed two pups was out of the question.”

“We ended up with one pup we named Maggie Mae. We went on her first real hunt in November and I could not have been happier. She made her first point, first retrieve and got her first bird. I felt like a proud papa!”



Membership Changes and Member Contact Info

The following names represent our newest HOW members. Please make a note of their contact info:

Brent Drinkut: 7980 Glen View Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46236, phone: 317-617-4681,
Email: bdrinkut@dnr.IN.gov

Holly Lawson: 402 W. Washington St., W225B, Indianapolis, IN 46204, phone: 317-533-0013,
Email: hlawson@dnr.IN.gov

The following HOW members have updated contact information:

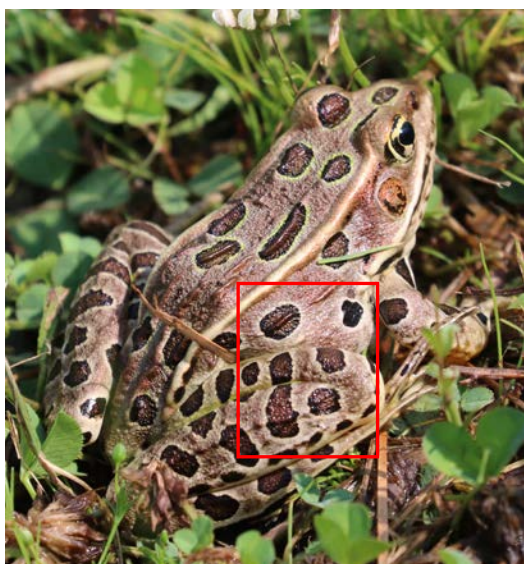
Dana Neer: New email address: dananeer400@gmail.com.

Jack Spaulding: Old phone line is gone. Please use cell phone: 765-570-6701,
New email address: jackspaulding1971@outlook.com.

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

Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Cauldryn

Northern Leopard Frogs Are Also Called Meadow Frogs



Close-up
→
Original
←



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was just as hard as the previous one, since it was correctly identified by nine (9) HOW members again. Mike Schoonveld, Terri Trowbridge, Troy McCormick, Clint Kowalik, Phil Seng, Bill Keaton, Mike Lunsford, John Maxwell and Phil Cox were all able to identify it. When we drew a name at random for the AI’s **Goldfish** tacklebox and fishing lures, Terri Trowbridge was the lucky winner. Congrats, Terri! We will have the prize sent to you.

As can be seen in the photo above and to the left, the mystery creature for this issue was a Northern Leopard Frog (*Lithobates pipiens*). We mistakenly said in the previous issue that these frogs can be found throughout Indiana – the northern leopard frog is found in the northern half of the state while the southern leopard frog lives in the southern half of Indiana. In the summer, they can be found fairly far from water, and grassy fields and meadows are part of their normal habitat. Of course, they also live near lakes, ponds, creeks and wet marshy areas.

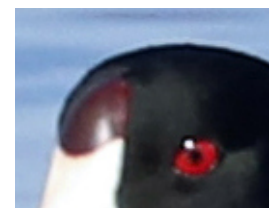
Northern leopard frogs are usually tan or a greenish tan color, with darker brown irregular-shaped spots that have a lighter edge or border. The spots look similar to a leopard’s spots, thus the name leopard frog. These frogs are nimble, powerful jumpers and typically measure up to four inches long. Besides the name leopard frog, they are also called grass frog and meadow frog. They will eat almost anything, but insects like ants, crickets, beetles and flies are favorites.



For this issue, our friends at **Cauldryn** 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 Cauldryn Coffee Pro mug with an on-demand digital temperature display. It holds 16 ounces and keeps coffee between 74-212 degrees for up to 10 hours! 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 in northern Indiana and in extreme southern Indiana. It is highly unlikely you would 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 crayfish, for example, go ahead and guess “rusty crayfish” (of course, it’s not a crayfish). 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, **Cauldryn** (www.cauldryn.com) has donated a great Cauldryn Coffee Pro mug for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw a winner at random from the pool of 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.

NASGW-POMA Name Hornady® 7mm PRC Best New Ammunition

Grand Island, NE (Nov. 2, 2023) – The Hornady® 7mm PRC (Precision Rifle Cartridge) has been recognized as Best New Ammunition by the National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers (NASGW) in partnership with the Professional Outdoor Media Association (POMA).



Hornady received the award on October 24, 2023, at the Annual Appreciation and Caliber Awards during the association's NASGW Expo and Annual Meeting.

“We are honored to receive the Caliber Award for Best New Ammunition,” said Seth Swerczek, Hornady Communications Manager. “The 7mm PRC was a passion project for us and the success of this cartridge is truly gratifying,” he added.

The 7mm PRC is available in the following options:

- 7mm PRC 160 gr. CX™ Outfitter®
- 7mm PRC 175 gr. ELD-X® Precision Hunter®
- 7mm PRC 180 gr. ELD® Match™

The 7mm PRC – a 21st Century 7mm Magnum

FEATURES:

- Long-action centerfire rifle cartridge.
- Long, heavy for caliber bullets with a standard long action delivery.
- Temperature-stable, magnum speed propellants for consistent velocity and longer barrel life.
- Factory rifles available or simply swap your barrel on your 7mm Rem Mag or 300 Win Mag.



Trust your Next Hunt or Match to the 7mm PRC.

The 7mm Precision Rifle Cartridge from Hornady delivers long, heavy for caliber bullets in a standard long action. Fitting the niche between the 6.5 PRC and the 300 PRC, the 7mm PRC features temperature-stable, magnum speed propellants for consistent velocity and longer barrel life. Factory rifles are available or simply swap the barrel on your 7mm Rem Mag or 300 Win Mag and reap the benefits of this long-action, centerfire rifle cartridge. With results you can count on, trust your next hunt or match to the 7mm PRC.

To learn more about the 7mm PRC, please visit: <https://www.hornady.com/7prc>

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

Hornady Communications Manager Seth Swerczek, email: pr@hornady.com, phone: 800-338-3220 ext. 724.

Founded in 1949, Hornady® Manufacturing Company is a family-owned business headquartered in Grand Island, Nebraska. Proudly manufacturing products that are made in the USA, Hornady® Manufacturing is a world leader in bullet, ammunition, reloading tool, accessory and security product design and manufacturing.

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
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
Wild Tech - www.wildtechgear.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:

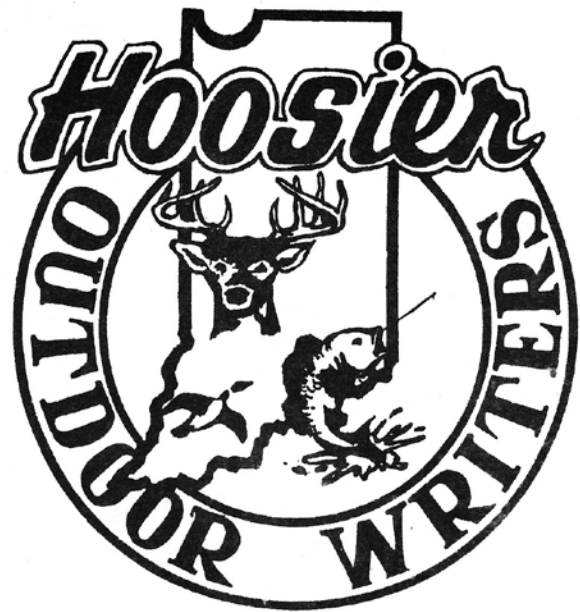
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor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

2024 ATA Show:

(www.archerytrade.org)

St. Louis, MO

January 11-13, 2024

Cincinnati Boat, Sport & Travel Show:

(www.CincySportShow.com)

Cincinnati, OH

January 19-21 & 24-28, 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 23-25, 2024

NRA 2024 Annual Meeting and Exhibits:

(www.nraam.org)

Dallas, TX

May 17-19, 2024

POMA 2024 Business Conference:

(www.professionalloutdoormedia.org)

Pinewood, SC

May, 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*.