

The Blade

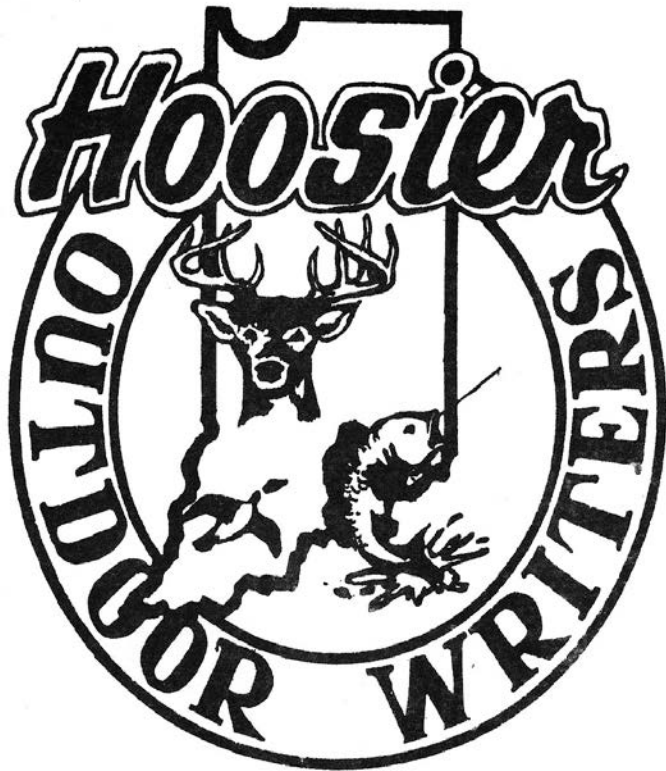
2023 Post-Conference Issue

May - June 2023

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Skipper Butterfly - the Summer Speedster", 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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Mike Schoonveld – 2025
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On the cover: *There are many species of skipper butterflies that are native to Indiana, and all of them are extremely fast fliers. Silver-spotted skippers, tawny-edged skippers and Zabulon skippers are just a few of the species you might see visiting the flowers in your garden. Photo by Tom Berg.*

President's Message

by Jarrett Manek

Welcome to Summer!

It is my great pleasure to welcome everyone to the summer of 2023 as the new incoming president. Some of you who know me and some of you who do not, so let me give you a little background information about myself. I am a native to Indiana who grew up in the Ohio Valley utilizing our State Park system as a kid near Madison and Hanover at Clifty Falls State Park and Hardy Lake Reservoir. The love for the outdoors drew me to my current job at O'Bannon Woods State Park where I have resided for nearly 25 years in charge of the Nature Center, Education Facility. My specialty and expertise for the 30 years working for the Department of Natural Resources has been concentrated on snake education, and other unique areas of natural and cultural interpretation. I also train and raise oxen for our facility at O'Bannon Woods.

Not only am I a Nature Center facility manager, outdoor educator, pioneer re-enactor, and more, but I enjoy pretty much all aspects of the outdoors, from fishing to hunting, photography, hiking and canoeing, even wildlife artistry and taxidermy.



I have recently been reminiscing about my early mentors and individuals who have influenced my career. Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom with Marlin Perkins and Jim Fowler come to mind, along with Marty Stouffer's Wild America in the early years, Steve Irwin, and of course Jack Hannah just to name a few well-known names. My wife was sharing a recent post from the family of Jack Hannah, which I just now discovered had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's several years ago. He had retired from outdoor education and his wildlife show during the start of the Covid era and had been very private about his diagnosis. Any diagnosis like that is extremely sad and he now has pretty much no knowledge of who he was and what he has done for education with wildlife.

I do not want to turn my first presidential address into a sad speech but more of a positive challenge for each of you. As some of you know, I have two young adult children whom I have written about many times. I am a strong advocate by career and by nature to teach. My wife Jennifer and I have raised our two kids, Wyatt (18) and Abby (17) in the country and outdoors so that they respect it and understand the importance of both conservation and preservation. This has spilled over to their friends and other youth as well. I know other individuals who actively introduce our youth to outdoor activities. Getting recruitment out there for the next generations to support our "Outdoors" is very important to me. Please take time to share what you know in more ways than one before our knowledge is lost. I look forward to getting to know you all and this will be a great year to tell our stories.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents and Memorial Section

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

Judi Brown (Associate)
Birdseye, IN
Sponsor: Teena Ligman

Ken Keffer (Active)
Bloomington, IN
Sponsor: Phil Bloom

Marion Mason (Associate)
Odon, IN
Sponsor: Teena Ligman

Donna Rogler (Associate)
New Palestine, IN
Sponsor: Teena Ligman

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

Trapshooting Excitement at the Annual HOW Fun Shoot

by Tom Berg

The 2023 HOW Fun Shoot held before the conference at McCormick's Creek State Park was another enjoyable event. A great group of HOW members met at the Spencer Conservation Club just a few miles north of Spencer, IN and everyone had a great time.



It is 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. Some of our regular participants are experienced shooters while others are new to the sport and are still learning, but all skill levels are always welcome!

This year Bob Curry was our contact at the Spencer Conservation Club, and he met us at 1:00pm at the club. Bob manned the trap thrower for us, while Phil Seng's wife Laura kept score during the afternoon. The Spencer Conservation Club has a very nice trapshooting range and they host many local trapshooting events throughout the year. This location

Above (L to R): HOW shooters Bob Jennings, Bill Keaton and Phil Seng line up at the trapshooting range. Bob Curry from the conservation club is seated at the extreme left with the trap thrower controls.

Right: Phil Seng takes aim while Bill Keaton (front) and Tom Berg (back) look on. HOW Fun Shoot photos taken by Tom Berg and Bob Jennings.

was just perfect for us!

The weather was outstanding for this year's Fun Shoot. The temperature was balmy and it was mostly sunny. It did become a bit hazy as the afternoon wore on, but there was no threat of rain. That's always a good thing during the Fun Shoot!

Bill Keaton, one of HOW's best shooters, was once



(HOW Fun Shoot continued on next page)



again in good form on this day. At last year’s Fun Shoot Keaton shot a perfect round of skeet – 25 for 25 without missing a single clay target. Most shooters find trapshooting to be a little easier than skeet, although it’s still not as easy as shooting fish in a barrel! Keaton shot extremely well in our first round of trap, too, hitting 24 out of 25 targets. That made him the top shooter in Round #1. Bob Jennings and Phil Seng each turned in a score of 21/25 to tie for second place in Round #1.

Round #2 was a little tougher for every one of our HOW shooters, but Keaton came out on top again with a score of

22/25. Bob Jennings took second place with a score of 20/25. Tom Berg and Phil Seng both struggled, but Berg struggled the most! Seng placed third with a score of 18/25.



Phil Seng came on strong in Round #3 and redeemed himself with a first place score of 23 out of 25. Keaton posted a second place finish with 18/25. Berg placed third. Bob Jennings started having trouble with his shotgun, so he decided to sit out Round #3. His gun would fire the first round but would not fire the follow-up shotshell. He said he planned to work on it when he got back home.



As the afternoon began to wane, Keaton and Jennings said they were done shooting. Seng and Berg decided to go one more round just for fun. Veteran shooter Phil Seng came out on top again with a score of 21/25, and Tom Berg reported a score of 18/25. Both shooters vowed to do better next year!

Our sincere thanks go out to Bob Curry and the Spencer Conservation Club for hosting the 2023 HOW Fun Shoot.

Be sure to get in on the fun next year and participate in the 2024 Fun Shoot!

Top: Bill Keaton takes aim at a fast-flying clay target while Phil Seng watches. **Above Left:** Bob Jennings and Bill Keaton smile for the camera between shots. **Above Right:** Bob Curry from the Spencer Conservation Club walks out to check the status of the clay target thrower inside the traphouse. Photos by Tom Berg.

2023 HOW Conference Returns to Owen County's McCormick's Creek State Park



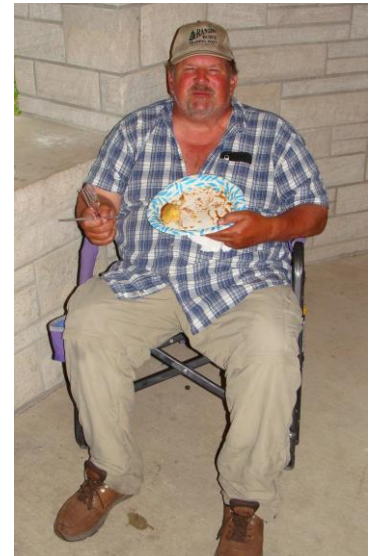
The 53rd meeting of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers took place on the weekend of May 19-21, 2023 (Friday through Sunday) at McCormick's Creek State Park near Spencer, IN. It has been six years since we had a conference at McCormick's Creek, and it was great to visit this beautiful park again!

The first activity of the conference was the annual HOW Fun Shoot on Friday, May 19. Several HOW members met at the nearby Spencer Conservation Club for some trapshooting. We had a great time shooting and visiting. If you have never attended a HOW Fun Shoot (or if it's been a while), check out all the fun we had on pages 5-6. After the shooting was done, everyone made the short drive over to the park and joined the other HOW members who were already gathering for the Friday evening barbecue and get-together.



The barbecue started at 6:00pm inside the park at the **Centennial Shelter**. This shelter is located near McCormick's Creek, fairly close to the waterfall. Special thanks to Park Manager Dwight Brooks for providing the shelter and reserving it for us, and thanks to Jason Kinney from the **Sweet Owen Convention & Visitors Bureau** for sponsoring this year's barbecue.

The barbecue was the perfect time to meet up with old friends and make some new ones as the food was being prepared. HOW Vice President Jarrett Manek was in charge of the BBQ this year, and he did a fabulous job. He made his famous Hickory Hollow smoked brisket and pulled pork, complete with plenty of sides. He also brought his deep fryer and he fried up a big pile of bluegill and crappie fillets that he and Tom Berg brought. Other HOW members brought additional sides and



desserts, too.

Everyone sat down inside the shelter to eat and continue visiting. The food was great and the company was even better. The smoked brisket and the fried fish disappeared pretty quickly, although everyone had more than enough to eat and drink. And since this year's conference was in late-May, the temperature was actually very nice instead of the frigid temperatures we usually endure during our annual BBQ!



Top Right: The Canyon Inn at McCormick's Creek State Park was a great venue for the HOW conference. **Middle Left:** Chef Jarrett Manek works on frying the fish fillets. **Above Right:** Bob Sawtelle enjoys his dinner from his comfy chair. **Above (L to R):** Phil and Laura Seng, Glenn Helgeland, Tom Berg, Ken Keffer, Phil Bloom and Judy Helgeland at dinner.



HOW President Phil Seng addresses the membership to open the meeting.

The annual meeting began at 8:00am on Saturday morning, and the attending HOW members and guests assembled at the historic Canyon Inn inside the state park. As usual, the first hour of the meeting was set aside for registration, coffee, a light continental breakfast, and some social time for the membership.

HOW President Phil Seng called the meeting to order at 9:00am and provided opening remarks, then briefed those present on the day's schedule. He also talked about our conference sponsors and thanked each one of them (please see page 15 for a complete list). Afterwards, he introduced our first seminar speaker of the day: **Andrea Huntington**, the executive director of the Indiana Land Protection Alliance (ILPA).

Huntington described the ILPA and the work they do in Indiana, and went into detail about their collaboration efforts with state groups, non-profit organizations and different land trusts. She talked about the fact that only about 4% of the land in Indiana is public land, and that only 3.5% of the state is composed of wetlands – when it was originally 25%.

Currently, only about 20% of Indiana is forested, which is a far cry from the original number of 85%.

Huntington also talked about the ILPA's strategic plan for conservation. Here it is in simple, concise terms:

ILPA unites and empowers Indiana's conservation community. We build relationships, foster collaboration, and advance policies that help protect Indiana's land, water, and wildlife, for all people, *forever*.

Of course, she explained that the ILPA cannot do their work alone. They partner with many groups and agencies throughout the state and throughout the Midwest. A few of those partners include: the Global Center for Species Survival, the Indiana Academy of Sciences, DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife, Indiana Audubon, Indiana Destination Development Corporation, Indiana Plant

Conservation Alliance, SICIM, American Farmland Trust, Indiana Conservation Alliance, Ducks Unlimited, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Friends of the White River – and more!



Seminar speaker Andrea Huntington talks about some of ILPA's recent conservation work in Indiana. Photos on this page by Tom Berg.

Huntington discussed ways that each of us can help, including doing something as simple as introducing

(continued next page)

your favorite park, nature preserve or wild place to a child or other young person. It is important to get the next generation interested and involved. Another thing to do is contact your state and local representatives and tell them that land conservation is important to you. Also, support your local land trust. Find out more about your own local land trust at www.protectindianaland.org.

The next seminar speaker of the day was **Glenn Helgeland** with help from his wife **Judy**. They are the owners of Target Communications Outdoor Books in Mequon, WI. They presented an informative seminar on book publishing. The Helgelands have been in the publishing business for decades, so they know a thing or two about getting books printed and actually making money at it.

Glenn Helgeland discussed the pros and cons of self-publishing, including the benefits and the pitfalls. He also talked about e-books, voice-books, print books (digital and old style), print-on-demand, social media, selecting printers, market research and sales efforts, just to mention a few topics. His wife Judy talked about order fulfillment, book inventory and storage, shipping and much more.



Glenn Helgeland and his wife Judy from Target Communications Outdoor Books talked in-depth about book publishing. Even though we are in the digital age, hardcopy book publishing is not dead. But to be successful, would-be authors and publishers need to “have a plan”.

Mr. Helgeland also gave some advice for HOW members thinking about publishing a collection of your old newspaper columns: don't do it. He said “You can look forward to selling two of those books – one to your mother and the other to your wife. And neither of those are guaranteed!”

Of course, we know more than one HOW member who has published such a book, and we are guessing the sales success rate is directly proportional to how much time and energy you devote to marketing and selling your book.

“Publishing is the easy part,” said

Helgeland. “Sales is the main work.” He emphasized the fact that to be successful, you need to have a solid marketing plan before you ever send a book to the printer. You also need to decide whether or not you want to print a quantity of books and have them all shipped to you so you can sell them yourself (you could make more money that way). But you would have to have a place to store them and be ready and able to ship out orders as they come in.

Sales outlets include Amazon and Barnes & Nobles and other online sellers, but there are still plenty of brick-and-mortar stores where you can sell your books. If your book is about archery or bowhunting, local archery shops are a great location to place a quantity of books to sell. Social media can also be very good for advertising new books and gaining sales.

Helgeland displayed quite a few different books that he has published over the years, and many of them are still selling. Some, of course, did not sell as well as hoped or as well as expected. It always helps to have a big-name or well-known person associated with the book you are trying to sell.

(continued next page)



HOW members listen intently to one of the excellent seminar speakers that we had lined-up for this year's conference.

Before breaking for lunch, President Phil Seng called the HOW Business Meeting to order. HOW Nominating Chairman John Martino presented the proposed slate of new officers for the coming year and the elections commenced. Jarrett Manek was elected our new President, Bob Sawtelle was elected Vice-President and Phil Seng will become the Board Chairman. Our new Board members (terms expiring in 2025) include: Rich Creason, Jack Spaulding, Mike Schoonveld, Phil Bloom and Brent Wheat. Thank you to all of our new volunteers!

After the elections and business meeting were concluded, an excellent buffet lunch was served by the Canyon Inn kitchen staff. Everyone relaxed and socialized for an hour before the afternoon activities began. A big thank-you goes out to our friends at the **National Shooting Sports Foundation** for sponsoring the lunch this year at the HOW conference.

The first seminar after lunch was presented by **Gerianne Albers**, the furbearer biologist for the Indiana DNR. She has been involved with recent research and monitoring efforts for a few of Indiana's different furbearer species, including gray foxes, bobcats and muskrats. In fact, a multi-year research study is underway right now to learn more about factors affecting native gray fox populations in Indiana, and why those populations are in decline.



Furbearer Biologist Gerianne Albers talks about research concerning bobcats and gray foxes during her presentation.

Bobcat populations are also being studied, and collaborative efforts between the IDNR and other groups like Purdue University, the Wildlife Ecology Institute, and Luther College are yielding interesting results. While the gray fox population seems to be declining, the state's bobcat population appears to be increasing.

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Bobcats have now been reported in almost every Indiana county, and although they are much more common in the southern half of the state, they have been reported in northwest Indiana's Lake County, northeast Indiana's Steuben County and almost everywhere in-between.

Recent bobcat research has shown that male bobcats are the real wanderers, since male bobcats typically have a home range of up to 91 square miles. Female bobcats do not move around nearly as much, as their home range is usually only 9 square miles.

Albers also talked about the state's muskrat populations. Muskrat populations are typically very cyclical, and recent data has shown that populations peaked from 2019 through 2021. For example, one of the charts she displayed showed that there were 18 juvenile muskrats per adult in the 2020-2021 time period. This year (2022-2023), the chart showed slightly more than 9 juvenile muskrats per adult.

Some of this data comes from Hoosier volunteers who help monitor the populations of species like muskrats and report their observations through the DNR's "Report A Mammal" program. Go to <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/wildlife-resources/animals/report-a-mammal/> for more info.



Lt. Col. Terry Hyndman talks about Indiana's TIP program and how the public can help DNR law enforcement with catching poachers and polluters. Call 1-800-TIP-IDNR if you see a poacher in action.

After Geriann Albers' seminar, it was time to present the awards for the **TIP (Turn-In-a-Poacher/Polluter) Contest**. Once again the TIP Citizen's Advisory Board sponsored a special writing contest for HOW members, asking our writers to promote the TIP mission, the TIP hotline and support the TIP Advisory Board.

Lt. Col. Terry Hyndman from the IDNR Law Enforcement Division, along with TIP Board member Phil Seng, were present to discuss the TIP program and the TIP mission. They also announced this year's TIP Contest winners and presented the winners with checks and framed certificates. Please see page 24 for details and photos of the TIP awards presentation.

After the TIP awards were distributed, newly-elected HOW President Jarrett Manek stated that it was time to

announce the results of the **2023 HOW Awards-In-Craft** contests.

Cash prizes and certificates were awarded to the best of the best in the annual Writing Contest, the Photography Contest and the Broadcast Contest. Participation by the membership this year was less than last year, so we are hoping we see an increase in 2024. After all, you can't win if you don't play!

Our sincere thanks go out to Curt McAllister and **Toyota Motor Sales** for once again sponsoring our AIC contests and for recognizing the achievements of our members.

The complete list of HOW Awards-in-Craft contest results can be seen on pages 17-19. Check it out to see who submitted the best work this year in the different media categories.

The last seminar of the day was titled *Snakes Alive* and was led by HOW member and DNR Naturalist **Jarrett Manek** from O'Bannon Woods State Park.

Although snakes are very beneficial to the environment, there are many negative myths and old wives' tales associated with snakes. Manek did his best to dispel many of those long-standing myths.

For example, Manek brought out a small milk snake and explained that it got its name because farmers often found these snakes in their barn near their dairy cows. The farmers assumed the snakes were drinking milk from the cows, when



2023 HOW Awards-In-Craft winners (L to R): Tom Berg, Mike Lunsford, John Martino and Troy McCormick. Many of our members could not attend because of school graduations and other obligations, but they were there in spirit. Other contest winners who were not present: Mike Schoonveld, Jack Spaulding, Rich Creason, John Maxwell and Brandon Butler. Thank you to Curt McAllister and **Toyota Motor Sales**, the corporate sponsor of the HOW Awards-In-Craft contests this year. Photo by Mike Berg.



Jarrett Manek holds one of the larger live snakes he brought to the HOW conference – a black rat snake. Photo by Tom Berg.

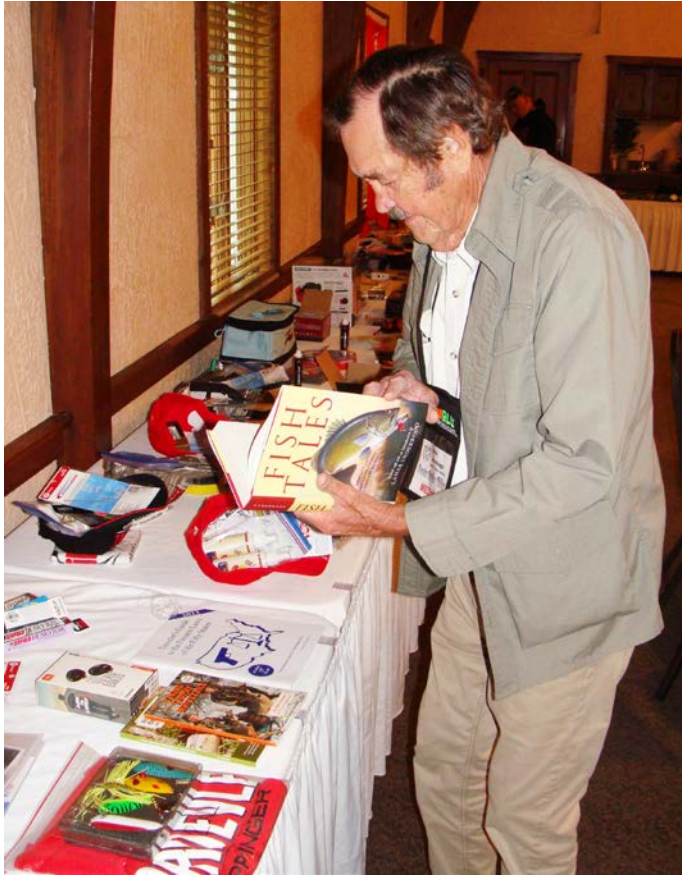
they were actually just in the barn hunting mice, rats and other small prey.

Manek brought a total of eleven different species of live snakes to the conference at McCormick's Creek State Park, all of which are native to the state of Indiana. This included all four venomous snake species native to Indiana. Here is a listing of the live snakes he brought with him: the black rat snake, black kingsnake, blue racer, worm snake, bull snake, milk snake, ring-necked snake, Massasauga rattlesnake, copperhead, timber rattlesnake and water moccasin.

During his presentation, Manek brought the non-venomous snakes around the room so everyone who was interested could get a close look at them. If anyone was not comfortable with getting too close to snakes, they simply had to raise their hand and he

would not bring the snake near them. We did not want anyone to feel uneasy or nervous about being too close to the snakes. By the way, Manek did not get bitten by any of the snakes he handled that day.

The final activity of the day was the annual HOW Raffle. This is the favorite part of the meeting for many HOW members, and this year's raffle was excellent. Raffle Chairman Tom Berg organized another great event this year, easily filling several banquet tables with excellent outdoor products from our loyal HOW



Above: Bob Jennings examines a book titled *"Fish Tales"* on one of the many tables filled to overflowing with great outdoor products for the HOW Raffle. **Right:** Jarrett Manek looks at another one of the items that were up for grabs in the raffle. Raffle photos by Tom Berg.

Supporting Members (and many new Supporting Members, too). This year he and his helpers secured donations from a total of **63** companies, organizations and individuals. That wasn't as good as last year, so we will try harder for the 2024 conference. We still had a great assortment of raffle items again this year, as usual. Tom would also like to thank John Galambos and Mike Berg for their help in securing a number of the items again this year. Thank you!

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

The moment the raffle tickets went on sale, a long line formed behind the ticket sales table. Just like



last year, however, sales went a lot quicker since we had groups of 50 tickets pre-stripped and ready to sell. A big thank you goes to long-time HOW member Brent Wheat for taking over the raffle ticket sales and calling out the numbers for the prizes. Thank you also to Terri Trowbridge for assisting Brent with the ticket sales.

As HOW members have come to expect, this year's raffle featured quality as well as quantity when it came to the items to be raffled-off. Firearms enthusiasts were happy with this year's raffle prizes again, as we had a fine **Ruger** American Rifle with a Magpul® Hunter American short-action stock, chambered in 6.5 Creedmoor. We also had a **Henry** .22 caliber lever-action Golden Boy rifle, a great **Mossberg** International SA-20 Field shotgun (20 gauge) with a walnut stock and a 5-choke sport set, and an excellent **CVA** Optima muzzleloader rifle. We also had multiple **Daisy** airguns, as well!

Besides the firearms, we also had plenty of shooting supplies, optics, a premium bow sight, ammunition, gun safes, a reloading press, gun cleaning products and much more. Fishermen in the crowd were nearly overwhelmed by an incredible array of fishing lures of all shapes, sizes and colors. We also had a Vexilar Fish Scout underwater camera system, a Vexilar Sonar Phone, an electric fillet knife, premium rodholders, fishing rods, fishing reels, icefishing gear, fishing line, fishing scents, terminal tackle and tackle boxes.



There was also a Boat US membership, NWTf memberships, turkey calls, a superior WOOX axe and hatchet, a high-tech Spypoint trail camera, many great outdoors books and videos, field guides, premium backpacks, high quality sunglasses, phone cases, hunting gear, shirts, hats, gloves, waterproof binoculars, knives, camping gear, premium ice packs, superior coolers, Yeti cups and other outdoor gear. We also had many gift certificates for products and services from our generous Supporting Members.

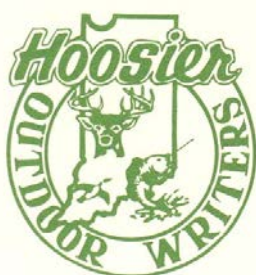
The 2023 raffle was another huge success! Of course, without the support and generosity of our Supporting Members the raffle would not happen at all. For a complete listing of this year's raffle donors, see page 16. Please support them in your

work whenever possible. Also, be sure to send them a thank-you note when you get a chance.

Don't forget to mail or email article tearsheets or online links for your photos, articles, podcasts or radio shows to our corporate members when you feature their products in your work, too. It is important to let them know of your efforts!



Above Left: Brent Wheat grins as he works on selling more raffle tickets. **Directly Above:** HOW members Terri Trowbridge (L), Brent Wheat (center) and Don Cranfill (R) talk about how many raffle tickets Don still needs to buy.



2023 HOW Conference

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers would like to thank the following conference sponsors:



Owen County Tourism
ADVENTURE IN ALL SEASONS
www.owencountytourism.org



HOW Raffle Donors - 2023

A big thank-you goes to this year's raffle donors. Please support them in your work whenever possible.

Al's Goldfish Lure Co.

Ankor Fishing Gear

Arctic Ice

Artrip Float Company

B'n'M Poles

Black River Tools

BoatUS

BOLT Locks

BPI Outdoors

Cauldryn

Church Tackle

Cocoons Eyewear

Daisy Outdoor Products

Daiwa

Dardevle Lures

Ducks Unlimited

Egret Baits

Falcon Guides

Finn Tackle Company

Flying Fisherman

Hawke Sport Optics

Henry Repeating Arms

HHA Sports

Hornady Manufacturing

Kehrer Fish Company

L&S Bait Company

LensPen

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Smith's Products

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Speedhook Specialists

Sporting Classics

Spypoint Trail Cameras

St. Croix Rods

Sturm, Ruger & Co.

Swab-Its

Tales End Tackle

Target Communications Outdoor Books

Toyota North America

**Traveler's Guide to the Firearms Laws
of the Fifty States**

TTI-Blakemore

Vexilar, Inc.

WOOX

W.R. Case

Z-Man Fishing

The HOW 2023 Awards-In-Craft Contests

The results are in! The winners of the 2023 Awards-In-Craft contest were announced at this year's annual conference at McCormick's Creek State Park in late-May, and we had a large number of outstanding entries. As usual, the writing portion of the contest drew the most interest, as HOW members submitted a total of 78 entries from 14 different HOW members. This was quite a bit less than the number of entries from 2022 when we had 100 entries, but it's still pretty good. Let's see if we can do better next year and have even more entries in 2024! You can't win if you don't play, and there is no cost to participate. The photography contest included 22 entries from only four HOW members, so participation was way down in that contest. Last year we had 49 photo entries from 11 HOW members. We can do better! The Broadcast contest featured seven entries from two different HOW members, which is very similar to last year. This year we had entries in all three broadcast categories, too.

Considering the large amount of contest entries, the AIC judges did a great job and most of the competitions were extremely close. In the Writing Contest, only one or two points often separated a first place entry from a second place entry, etc. Many articles landed in 4th place by a mere point or two, also. Considering the fact that each article can receive up to 200 points (100 from each of two judges), those were some close races! We had a total of nine different winners in the contests in 2023, and each took home prize money. Make sure you get in on the fun next year!

Once again this year the Awards-In-Craft contests were sponsored by **Toyota**, so the winners were awarded checks along with certificates to commemorate their big achievements. We would like to thank Curt McAllister, Midwest Public Relations Manager and Outdoor Communications Manager at **Toyota Motor North America**, and all our friends at Toyota for their generous sponsorship in 2023.



HOW members are encouraged to log on to the Toyota website (www.toyotanevroom.com) to find out more about their products and recent news releases, including information on their educational and community giving efforts.

A special thank-you also goes to our contest coordinators who donated their time and energy to secure judges and get each of the entries reviewed and scored in time for the conference at McCormick's Creek.

Dealing with a large number of submissions which are typically sent right before the deadline always makes coordinating the entries/judges difficult, but the electronic entries really helped. The official 2023 Awards-In-Craft coordinators were: Phil Cox (Writing), John Martino (Photography) and Tom Berg (Broadcast).

For a complete list of the winners (along with the number of entries for each contest) see the details on the following pages. Please take a look and congratulate your fellow HOW members on their successes.



HOW WRITING CONTEST

(2023: 78 entries from 14 different HOW members)

(2022: 100 entries from 17 different HOW members)

(2021: 108 entries from 19 different HOW members)

(2020: 74 entries from 14 different HOW members)

Hunting/Trapping (Less Than 1000 Words)

1st: Jack Spaulding, “The American Woodcock”

2nd: John Martino, “Freedom Hunt Enriches Lives”

3rd: Tom Berg, “Enjoy a Late-Season Squirrel Hunt”

Hunting/Trapping (More Than 1000 Words)

1st: Mike Schoonveld, “Play the Waiting Game for Pheasants!”

2nd: Tom Berg, “Trail Cameras Provide Valuable Hunting Intel”

3rd: Tom Berg, “Tactics for Dove Hunting Success”

Fishing (Less Than 1000 Words)

1st: Tom Berg, “Fabulous Fishing on Grand Traverse Bay”

2nd: Tom Berg, “World Records Within Reach”

3rd: Jack Spaulding, “A Fish by Another Name”

Fishing (More Than 1000 Words)

1st: Mike Schoonveld, “Lady Luck, Positive Thinking and Fishing Carma”

2nd: Mike Schoonveld, “Crankbait Tweaks for Fun and Fish”

3rd: Tom Berg, “Target Rough Water for Springtime Salmon”

Conservation (Less Than 1000 Words)

1st: Mike Schoonveld, “Laker Diet Determines Spawning Success”

2nd: Jack Spaulding, “Rare Birds Grace Indiana Skies”

3rd: Jack Spaulding, “Ahoy Wild Turkey”

Conservation (More Than 1000 Words)

1st: Mike Schoonveld, “Lake Michigan Mega-Kings, A Fad or the Future?”

2nd: Mike Lunsford, “Juliet Strauss and the Spirit of Turkey Run”

3rd: Tom Berg, “Invasive Plants Kill Birds and Bats”

General Outdoors (Less Than 1000 Words)

1st: Richard Creason, “The Tallgrass Prairie”

2nd: Mike Lunsford, “The Resilient and Fascinating Fox”

3rd: Mike Schoonveld, “How to Roast a Wiener”

General Outdoors (More Than 1000 Words)

1st: Mike Lunsford, “Exploring the Falls in West Central Indiana”

2nd: Mike Schoonveld, “Keeping Your Fish Fresh – Never Frozen”

3rd: John Martino, “Thankfully, Here We Go Again”



HOW PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

(2023: 22 entries from 4 different HOW members)
(2022: 49 entries from 11 different HOW members)
(2021: 40 entries from 9 different HOW members)
(2020: 43 entries from 8 different HOW members)

Hunting/Trapping

1st: Tom Berg, "Father and Son Dove Hunt"
2nd: John Maxwell, "Tagging Turkey Reflections"
3rd: Tom Berg, "Fall Turkey Hunt"

Fishing

1st: John Maxwell, "Lake Lincoln – 'There I Grew Up,' said Abe Lincoln"
2nd: Tom Berg, "Cutthroat Trout – Western Beauty"
3rd: John Maxwell, "Last Fishing Trip with Great-Grandkids"

Outdoor Scenic

1st: Tom Berg, "Western Whitewater"
2nd: Mike Lunsford, "The Falls on McCormick's Creek"
3rd: Mike Lunsford, "Hoosier Sunrise"

Outdoor Recreation

1st: Tom Berg, "Birdwatchers Discover Baby Great Horned Owl"
2nd: John Maxwell, "Chain O' Lakes Canoeing"
3rd: Mike Lunsford, "White Dog in the Creek"



HOW BROADCAST CONTEST

(2023: 7 entries from 2 different HOW members)
(2022: 8 entries from 3 different HOW members)
(2021: 7 entries from 3 different HOW members)
(2020: 2 entries from 1 HOW member)

Best Radio Broadcast

1st: Brandon Butler, "Driftwood Outdoors – Concealed Carry Magazine and Kevin Michalowski"
2nd: Brandon Butler, "Driftwood Outdoors – The Lesmonster"
3rd: -- No Entry --

Best TV Broadcast

1st: Troy McCormick, "Symons African Safaris – Big Kudu Down"
2nd: Troy McCormick, "Symons African Safaris – Steve's Trophy Buff"
3rd: -- No Entry --

Best Video

1st: Troy McCormick, "Stories Beneath Our Feet: Wyandotte Cave"
2nd: Brandon Butler, "The White River Crew"
3rd: Troy McCormick, "Rose Island; Rediscovering a Story of Early 20th Century Entertainment"

NOTE: See the following four pages for images of the winning photos in this year's Photography Contest.

WINNING IMAGES FROM THIS YEAR'S PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

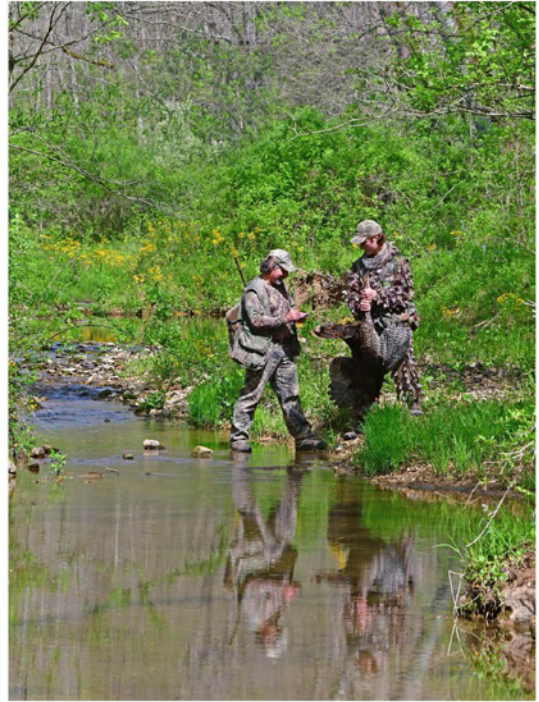
Hunting /Trapping



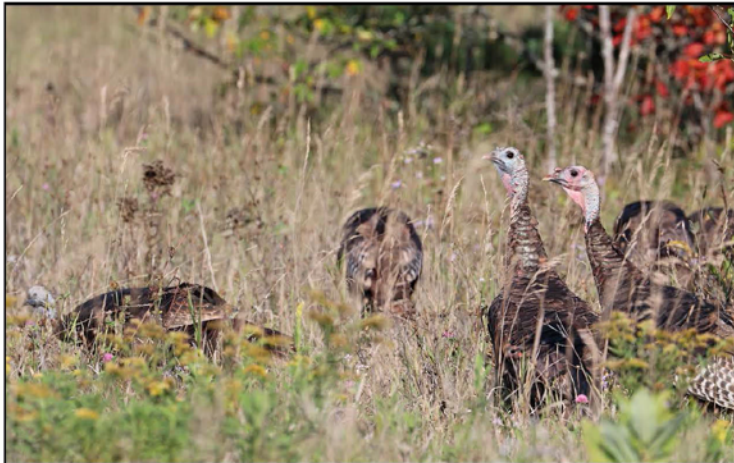
"Father and Son Dove Hunt"

First Place - Tom Berg

Second Place - John Maxwell



"Tagging Turkey Reflections "



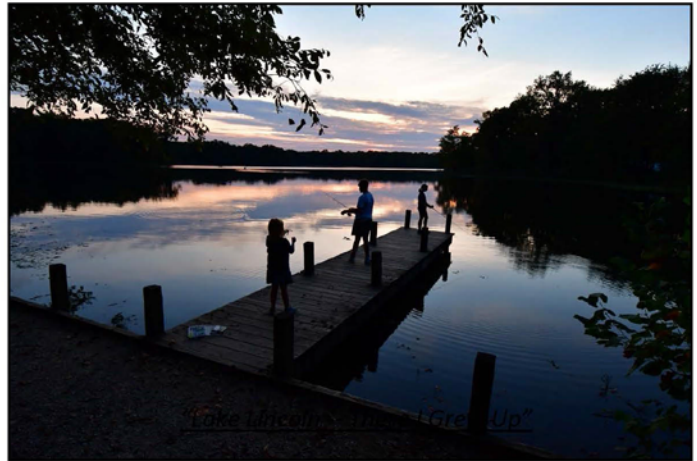
"Fall Turkey Hunt"

Third Place - Tom Berg

WINNING IMAGES FROM THIS YEAR'S PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Fishing

First Place - John Maxwell



Second Place - Tom Berg

"Cutthroat Trout-Western Beauty"

Third Place – John Maxwell



"Last Fishing Trip with Great- Grandkids"

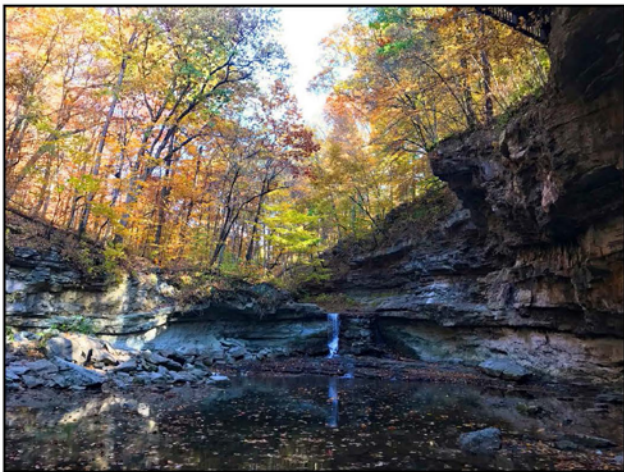
WINNING IMAGES FROM THIS YEAR'S PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Outdoor Scenic

First Place – Tom Berg



"Western Whitewater"



Second Place – Mike Lunsford

"The Falls on McCormick's Creek"

Third Place – Mike Lunsford



"Hoosier Sunrise"

WINNING IMAGES FROM THIS YEAR'S PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Outdoor Recreation

First Place – Tom Berg



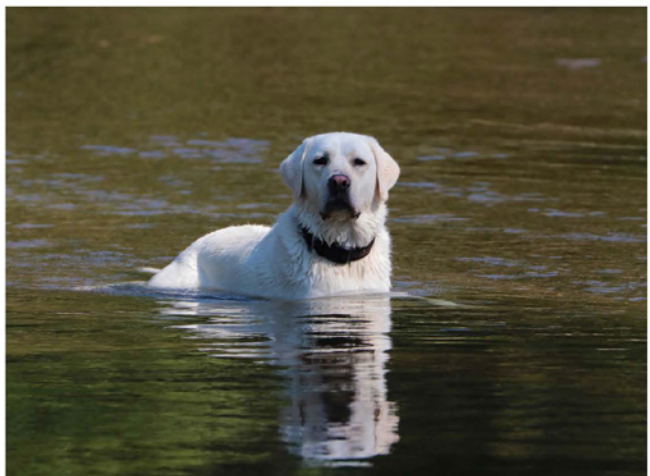
"Birdwatchers Discover Baby Great Horned Owl"



"Chain O' Lakes Canoeing"

Second Place - John Maxwell

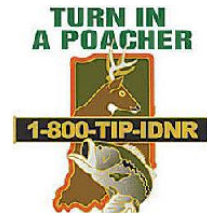
Third Place - Mike Lunsford



"White Dog in the Creek"



The TIP – Hoosier Outdoor Writers Turn in a Poacher/Polluter Writing Contest



The Indiana Turn in a Poacher (TIP) Citizen’s Advisory Board sponsored a writing contest last year to encourage HOW members to promote the TIP mission, the TIP hotline and support of the TIP Advisory Board. We had good participation and we received some excellent TIP articles.

A complete list of the 2023 winners is printed below. This year the prizes were \$500 for first place; \$300 for second place; \$200 for third place. Please take a look at the results below and congratulate your fellow HOW members on their successes.

Here is the list of the 2023 TIP Contest award winners:

First Place: Tom Berg, for his article:
“Sportsmen Have No Time for Poachers”
Published in *Midwest Outdoors Magazine*, December, 2022

Second Place: Mike Schoonveld, for his article:
“A ‘TIP’ For Your Contact List”
Published in *Great Lakes Angler Magazine*, July, 2022

Third Place: Mike Lunsford, for his article:
“The Off Season: A Few Feathers in the Grass”
Published in the *Terre Haute Tribune-Star*, 4-24-22

A special thank-you also goes to TIP Board president and contest coordinator, Phil Seng. Phil donated his time and energy to gather the entries, forward them on to the TIP Board, and perform all of the coordination between HOW and the TIP Board for this contest.

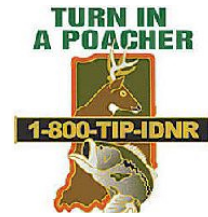
And FYI, there will be another contest this year, so start writing your TIP articles now and get them published throughout the rest of this year for your readers to see. There is no limit on the number of articles each person may submit. More articles and more exposure for the TIP program is what we are looking for. Check out the next page for more information and the submission dates for this year’s contest.



TIP Contest presentations: **Above Left:** Tom Berg receives his 1st Place award from Lt. Col. Terry Hyndman as TIP Board President Phil Seng looks on. **Above Right:** Mike Lunsford receives his 3rd Place award from Terry Hyndman. 2nd Place winner Mike Schoonveld was not present.



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>

HOW Fishing Outing – Something Fishy Going On!

by Tom Berg

The 2023 HOW fishing outing was held on Sunday, May 21 after the conference at McCormick’s Creek State Park. It was fun for everyone who participated! A small group of HOW members met at the Cunot Ramp on Cataract Lake north of Spencer, along with a few members of the Indiana Slab Masters fishing club. Our friends from the fishing club provided their boats, tackle and expertise to take us crappie fishing for the day.

The weather was great and the fish cooperated – for the most part. Rick Bramwell, Don Cranfill, Scott Weaver, Tom Berg and Mike Berg all hopped aboard the boats provided by the members of the Indiana Slab Masters club and headed out in search of the fish.

The Berg brothers fished with their long-time friend Bob Raymer. Rick Bramwell fished with his friend James Lasswell, and Don Cranfill and Scott Weaver fished with their new friend Tim Dunigan. Lots of crappies were caught, including many over 12 inches. Don Cranfill was using a double-jig rig, and he caught two crappies at the same time on it. Tom Berg caught a walleye in addition to the crappies he was targeting, and Mike Berg caught the largest fish of the day: a 15 pound bigmouth buffalo!

Here are some photos from the fishing outing:



Above Left: Mike Berg lifts the large buffalo he caught just prior to releasing it. **Above Right:** Don Cranfill holds the two crappies that he caught on one fishing rod at the same time – a true double. **Right:** Don Cranfill and Scott Weaver ride with their guide Tim Dunigan to another hotspot on Cataract Lake.

(HOW Fishing Outing photos continued on the next page)

More HOW Fishing Outing Photos



Top Left: Scott Weaver displays another “eater-sized” white crappie that he caught. **Top Right:** Mike Berg holds one of many white crappies he caught during the fishing outing. **Bottom Left:** Don Cranfill’s rod is bent under the weight of a “double” – two crappies that he caught at the same time. His guide is just about to net both fish at once. **Bottom Right:** Tom Berg, Mike Berg and their guide Bob Raymer fish an underwater brush pile for crappies on Cataract Lake.



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

For immediate release: June 27, 2023

Registration Opens for Invasives Workshop at Mississinewa Lake

Registration is now open for Upper Wabash Invasives Network's **Invasives Field Day and Workshop** at Mississinewa Lake, to be held Aug. 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The free event will focus on invasive control and habitat management.

The day will start at Mississinewa Lake's U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office, 5613 Mississinewa Dam Road in Peru with a breakfast of coffee and doughnuts.

Participants will then travel around the lake. Aron Showalter, wildlife specialist at Mississinewa Lake, will talk about managing invasive species. A lunch will be provided.

From 12:45 to 1:30 p.m., Geoff Schortgen, ag and natural resource educator with Purdue Extension Wabash County, will give a presentation on water quality and herbicide.

From 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Vince Burkle, nursery inspector and compliance officer with DNR's Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology, will speak about controlling the spotted lanternfly.

From 2:30 to 3 p.m., Teresa Rody, interpretive naturalist for Mississinewa Lake, will talk about how to identify invasive species.

The Office of Indiana State Chemist will offer Continuing Certification Hour (CCH) credits for those who attend, including five credits for Category 2 – Forest Pest Management, and Category 6, Industrial Weed Management, and four credits for Registered Technicians. Those seeking chem credits must attend the entire workshop.



Advance registration is required by calling 260-468-2127 or visiting the following link: www.eventbrite.com/e/invasive-control-and-habitat-management-field-day-tickets-635345323967.

Media contact:

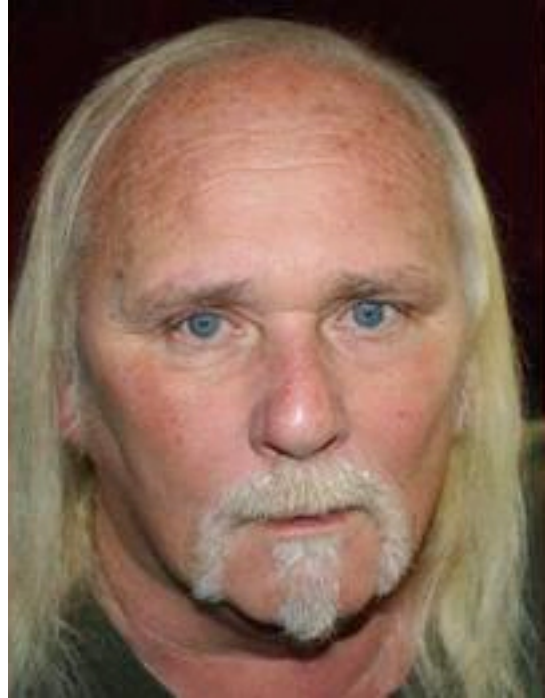
Teresa Rody, Interpretive Naturalist
Upper Wabash Interpretive Services
Phone: 260-468-2127

THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

Larry G. Crecelius – Age 71
February 17, 1952 ~ July 4, 2023

Larry G. Crecelius, age 71, of Salem, Indiana passed away Tuesday, July 4 at Baptist Health Floyd Cancer Center in in New Albany.

Larry was born February 17, 1952, in New Albany, the son of Howard Jacob Crecelius and Mary Virginia Pierson Henry. He is survived by his wife, Brenda Lashbrooks Crecelius. They were married December 11, 1971. He is also survived by two daughters: Amy Crecelius of Salem, and Jamie Stewart of Campbellsburg; two brothers: Jeff Henry of Lugoff, SC, and Junior Dillard of New Albany; three grandsons: Brandon Crecelius, Dylan Carpenter, and Baden Stewart; two great-grandsons: Jacob Crecelius and Jesse Crecelius; and his mother: Mary Henry of Lugoff, SC. He was preceded in death by his father: Howard Crecelius.



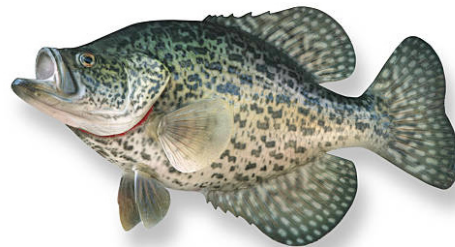
Larry retired from Kimball International after 32 years of service. He had a collection of guitars and he loved to play them. He was also a member of the Methodist Church in Salem.

Larry loved fishing and he was an avid bass fisherman and crappie fisherman. He was an editor for the Indiana B.A.S.S. News and worked in public relations for Crappie USA. When he worked for Crappie USA he covered their crappie tournaments and reported on them.

He was a freelance writer and a long-time member of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers, as well. He was elected President of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers in 2003 and enjoyed attending the annual HOW conferences. Larry remained an avid bass angler and crappie fisherman until his mobility was limited by health issues.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 P.M. Friday July 7 at Weathers Funeral Home in Salem. Burial will follow in Claysville Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 10AM-until time of service at the funeral home.

Larry will be deeply missed by all who knew him.



HOW Member News

Vikki Trout's Rewarding 2023 Turkey Hunt

HOW member Vikki Trout had another successful turkey hunt earlier this spring. Read on to find out more.

"It was April 26th," she remembered. "The opener of the Indiana spring turkey season provided nice temps, calm winds and a spectacular sunrise due to the light cumulus clouds. I was excited just being out in the woods chasing the elusive wild turkey once again. The sun rose, and of course, I heard nothing gobbling - the norm for my area. After getting comfortable next to a huge cedar tree, I let out some very gentle tree yelps and no got reply. Again - the norm."

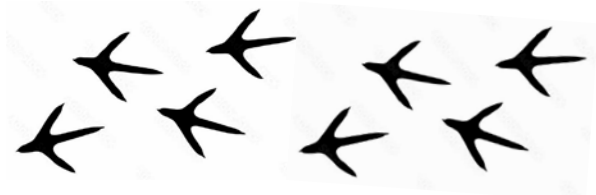


"After sitting for several hours, I spotted a bird heading in my direction. He was silently crossing the food plot. I let out two clucks and he looked my way. The only problem was he was a jake. I shut up and hoped he would continue on his way. He did. That was around 2:00pm."

"I had seen four long-beards on my trail camera, so I knew they had to be around somewhere. At 4:00pm, they silently showed up. I had the gun up and resting on my knee waiting patiently for the four to separate."

"At 4:22, they did separate and I was able to make a good shot. The long-beard I was aiming at went down and the other three immediately jumped on the downed bird. Feathers were flying everywhere as they beat up the dead bird."

"I ran out into the field and yelled at them. That's when they decided it was time to exit stage left!"



Early Father's Day Fishing for Jarrett Manek

HOW President Jarrett Manek planned a fishing trip to Lake Erie recently, and it sounds like he and his daughter did very well. Here is his report:

“Getting outside to fish with my kids has been a tradition for me on Father’s Day,” said Manek. “This year was no different. However, Father’s Day can come at any time - not just on a particular day. Even better, it can be a whole week long! A Dad/daughter trip to Lake Erie provided the opportunity to have a long awaited trip with just me and my daughter Abby. This was her first fishing trip with just the two of us and I was nervous about making it an enjoyable experience. I am often accompanied by my son, but this time he had to stay behind and settle for pictures and an end of the day fishing report.”

“Hiring a charter can be expensive and not always productive when the weather conditions are not ideal. However, having your own boat, deciding on how you want to fish, and doing your homework on the fishing reports can often be more satisfying than catching a limit out of someone else’s boat. The *Western Basin Fishing Report for Lake Erie* often provides enough critical info for anyone looking to do their own trip out on the big water searching for walleye. It is no secret that having the proper size boat and knowing your limits is very



important when you go out on one of the big lakes. The *I-Windsurf Report* is another critical site to pay attention to as well as the weather.”

“Abby and I were in our 18’ Lund ProV, trolling with spoons and deep diving crankbaits. Most fish we found were suspended, staying around 12-20’ deep. By the first of June, most of the bigger walleye schools were moving offshore towards Canada water. At one point we were within a few hundred yards of the Canada line in 30-40’ of water. The schools were big, the pack of boats was bigger, and the waves due to the consistent northern winds, were upwards of 2-3’ or more. Any bigger waves and we would have stayed ashore! This was some of the rougher water I have been in over the years and maybe the farthest out, but as for the walleye, it was definitely the best looking fish I have caught.”

“Actually, Abby caught most of the fish. Watching her catch the fish was my reward. Figuring out a strategy and rhythm between the two of us was a challenge, but in no time we switched off between setting the lines, netting and unhooking the fish and getting them in the live-well. I was very proud that she caught the biggest of the trip, also. Her 27” walleye made the average 21” fish we were catching look small. We caught a couple 24-25” fish and only one short fish. We came close to our limit one day and over half our limit the others. The Lake Erie walleye hatch has been on the upswing the last few years and the fish numbers and size have been fantastic.”



Jarrett Manek and daughter Abby display some of the walleyes from their Lake Erie trip. Abby caught the biggest one (shown at left).

HOW's Lunsford Wins Blue at CBAA Show

HOW board member Mike Lunsford was recently honored by the Covered Bridge Art Association as the winner of the photography division at its annual "Abstract Show" in April. Lunsford's winning entry, "The Blue Leaf," is a 16"x20" color photo taken in his Parke County woods last fall.

Besides being a member of HOW, Lunsford is a member of the River City Art Association and a contributing member at Covered Bridge. He will have a collection of his work featured in a public exhibit at the Vigo County Public Library in the month of June. Lunsford's CBAA award was announced at a reception at the Rockville gallery on April 30.



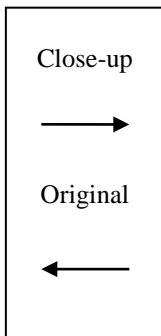
Abstract Winner: HOW's Mike Lunsford poses with contest judge Sloan Shockley Lewis at the Covered Bridge Art Association Gallery in Rockville with his photo "The Blue Leaf," the winner of the CBAA's abstract photography competition in April.

"I was very surprised by this because it was an abstract show and my work seems to be as realistic as realism gets," Lunsford said. "But filtering this photo really changed its texture and color in unusual ways. I stumbled onto this fantastic collection of fallen leaves from five or six different species of trees, so all I had to do was frame the shot," he added.

Putnam County artist Sloan Shockley Lewis was the judge in the CBAA Abstract Show.

Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Church Tackle Company

The Red-Breasted Nuthatch is an Acrobat



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was a little easier than usual, and it was correctly identified by a total of eleven (11) HOW members. Phil Seng, Mike Schoonveld, Troy McCormick, Don Cranfill,

Bill Keaton, Ken McBroom, Jarrett Manek, Jack Spaulding, Gary Redmon, Phil Cox and Marion Mason were all able to identify it. When we drew a name at random for the **WOOX** hunting knife, **Jarrett Manek** was the lucky winner. Congratulations, Jarrett! We will send the prize directly to you.

As can be seen in the photo above, the mystery creature for this issue was a red-breasted nuthatch. Some of the fastest and most acrobatic little birds around are the nuthatches. One of these is the small but feisty red-breasted nuthatch. These tiny, bluish-gray

birds have a very distinctive face with a black cap, black eye stripe and a bright white eyebrow stripe. As the name says, they also have reddish (or rusty orange) breast feathers.

Red-breasted nuthatches are often described as acrobatic because they hop up and down tree trunks and branches, either forwards or backwards, with the greatest of ease. Hanging upside down seems to be second nature to them. Birdwatchers can attract these energetic little birds to back yard bird feeders by offering black oil sunflower seeds, seed-laden suet and peanuts. The nuthatches eagerly eat these foods, and they even hide some of the seeds in secret caches for later in the winter when food is harder to find.

For this issue, our friends at **Church Tackle 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 professional grade 10” fillet/game knife with a special patented handle. 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 at certain times of the year, and if you live in that part of the state you might even see it in your own back yard. Does it look familiar? Have you ever seen this color pattern when spending time outdoors?



This creature may be easy for some people to identify, and harder for others. But we’ll see. Do you know of any creatures that look like this? This time you will have to identify the exact species. If you think it’s a species of songbird, for example, go ahead and guess “American Robin” (of course, it’s not a Robin). 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, **Church Tackle** (www.churchtackle.com) has donated a great fillet knife for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. This 10” professional grade knife features a unique raised/offset handle that makes filleting fish or processing game easy. 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.

Indiana's Ankor Fishing Gear Produces High Quality Fishing Reels

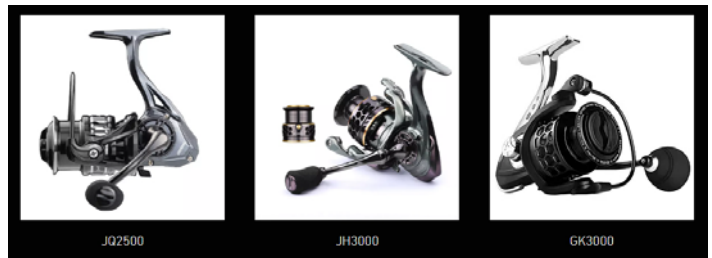


Wilkinson, IN – A new fishing tackle company has recently entered the market, and they are based right here in the great state of Indiana. Their name is Ankor Fishing Gear and they specialize in high quality spinning reels and baitcaster reels. Here is some information about the company, taken right from their website.

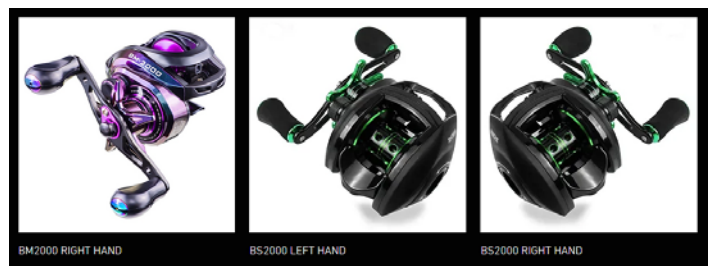
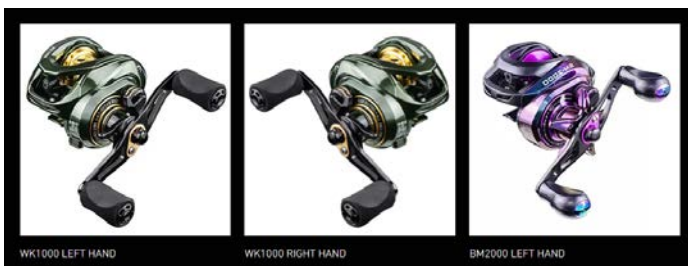
“We are committed to providing quality reels at an affordable price. Our product quality rivals the big stores without the big prices. All of our reels are tested, fished with by our team members and evaluated before they ever sell them at our store. This process takes more time, but we want our customers that spend their hard earned money to have confidence in their purchase.”

The images below show some of the reels that are available right now. Vince White at Ankor Fishing Gear donated some of these reels for the recent HOW Raffle, too. Check their website for the full line of spinning reels and baitcasters. www.ankorfishing.com.

Spinning Reels:



Baitcasting Reels:



The fishing reels from Ankor Fishing Gear look great and feel very smooth. They also come in new eye-catching metallic colors or for the more traditionalist angler: black.

Media Contact:

Please contact Vince White at Ankor Fishing Gear for more information. He can be reached by phone: 765-781-3189, or via email at: support@ankorfishing.com.

HOW Supporting Member News

Henry Repeating Arms Donates 50 Custom Rifles For 14-Year-Old's Brain Cancer Recovery

Rice Lake, WI – May 11, 2023. Henry Repeating Arms is releasing a limited-edition series of fifty “Team Jack” special edition rifles to raise funds for the Vancouver, WA, family of 14-year-old Jack Troxel to provide financial relief for past and ongoing medical expenses.

Jack was diagnosed with an intracranial malignant non-germinomatous germ cell tumor in July, 2021, and has since gone through four brain surgeries, seven rounds of chemotherapy, a round of high-dose chemotherapy, a stem cell transplant, six weeks of full brain and spine radiation, and four weeks of intensive physical, occupational, and speech therapy to counteract the toll such treatments took on him. Jack is currently in remission and receives MRI scans every three months.

Henry Repeating Arms Founder and CEO Anthony Imperato donated all fifty of the rifles, which are now available for sale online. Baron Engraving of Trumbull, CT, donated the artwork development time, engraving, and hand-painted embellishments. All proceeds from the “Team Jack” campaign, including both rifles going up for auction, will be presented to the Troxels.

The Henry “Team Jack” Golden Boy Silver .22 S/L/LR lever action rifle features genuine American walnut furniture, a 20” blued steel octagon barrel, a gleaming nickel-plated receiver cover, buttplate, and barrel band, and a unique serial number range from TEAMJACK01 through TEAMJACK50. Unique to this edition is the highly detailed design on the buttstock, which is laser engraved and painted by hand. The design features images depicting Jack’s love of the great outdoors, a “Team Jack” banner with a “His Fight Is Our Fight” tagline, and two ribbons, one gold and one grey. The gold ribbon is the international awareness symbol for childhood cancer; the grey ribbon represents support for brain cancer.

To learn more about the “Team Jack” edition rifle or to make a purchase, please visit www.henryusa.com/teamjack. Additionally, the first and last rifles in the series are up for auction online to enhance fundraising efforts.



Jack Troxel was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2021 and is in remission after nearly two years of an intense treatment program.



“Throughout his entire ordeal, we held onto what we call the ‘three F’s,’ which helped Jack get through the most difficult times. Faith, Family, and Friends,” said Ryan Troxel, Jack’s father. “Thank you to Henry Repeating Arms for the donations and support on Jack’s behalf. We can’t believe this.”

“The courage and strength shown by these kids going through unimaginable struggles at such a young age will never cease to astound me,” said Imperato. “To everyone that chooses to purchase one of these rifles to help support Jack and his family, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Sending a big hug to Jack and his parents.”

Media Contact: Please contact Communications Director Dan Clayton-Luce at Henry for more info or for additional images. Phone: 919-818-2052, email: dan@henryusa.com. NOTE: These rifles are already sold out.

HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Al's Goldfish Company - www.alsgoldfish.com
Ankor Fishing Gear - www.ankorfishing.com
Arctic Ice - www.arctic-ice.com
Artrip Float Company - www.artripfloatcompany.com
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Black River Tools - www.blackrivertools.com
BoatUS - www.boatus.com
BOLT Locks - www.boltlock.com
BPI Outdoors - www.BPIguns.com
Caldwell - www.caldwellshooting.com
Cauldryn - www.cauldryn.com
Church Tackle Company - www.churchtackle.com
Cocoons Eyewear - www.cocoonseyewear.com
Daisy Outdoor Products - www.daisy.com
Daiwa - www.daiwa.com
Dardevle by Eppinger - www.dardevle.com
Ducks Unlimited - www.ducks.org
Egret Baits - www.egretbaits.com
Falcon Guides - www.falconguides.com
Finn Tackle Company - www.finnspoons.com
Flying Fisherman - www.flyingfisherman.com
Hawke Sport Optics - www.hawkeoptics.com
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - www.henryUSA.com
HHA Sports - www.HHASports.com
Hi Mountain Seasonings - www.himtnjerky.com
Hoosier Trapper Supply -
www.hoosiertrappersupply.com
Hornady Manufacturing - www.hornady.com
Indiana Destination Development Corporation -
www.visitindiana.com
Kehrer Fish Company -
www.kehrerfishcompany.com
L&S Bait Company - www.shopmirrolure.com
Lawrence County Tourism - limestonecountry.com
LensPen - www.lenspen.com
LiveTarget Lures - www.livetargetlures.com
Mack's Lure - www.mackslure.com
Mathews Archery - www.mathewsinc.com
MEC Outdoors - www.mecoutdoors.com
Mepps by Sheldons', Inc - www.mepps.com
MirroLure - www.shopmirrolure.com
Mister Twister - www.mistertwister.com
Mongo Attachments –
www.mongoattachments.com
Mustad - www.mustad-fishing.com
National Shooting Sports Foundation –
www.nssf.org
National Wild Turkey Federation - www.nwtf.org
Nikko Fishing - www.nikko-fishing.com
Nothead Tackle - www.notheadtackle.com
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - www.mossberg.com
Old Salt Angling - www.oldsaltangling.com
Otis Technology - www.otistec.com
Outdoor Sportsman Group - www.outdoorsg.com
Pro-Cure Bait Scents - www.pro-cure.com
Rapala VMC - www.rapala.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
Roeslein Alternative Energy - www.roeslein.com
Seaguar Fishing Lines - www.seaguar.com
Shooter's Choice - www.shooters-choice.com
Smith's Products - www.smithsproducts.com
Speedhook Specialists - www.speedhook.com
Sporting Classics - www.sportingclassics.com
Spypoint Trail Cameras - www.spypoint.com
St. Croix Rods - www.stcroixrods.com
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - www.ruger.com
Swab-Its - www.swab-its.com
Sweet Owen CVB - www.sweetowencvb.org
Tales End Tackle - www.talesendtackle.com
Target Communications Outdoor Books –
www.targetcommbooks.com
Toyota Motor Sales - www.toyotaneewsroom.com
Traditions Media - www.traditionsmedia.com
Traveler's Guide to Firearms Laws of 50 States -
www.bookvalueusa.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - www.ttiblakemore.com
Vexilar, Inc. - www.vexilar.com
Whitetails Unlimited - www.whitetailsunlimited.com
WOOX - www.wooxstore.com
W.R. Case - www.wrcase.com
Z-Man Fishing - www.zmanfishing.com

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

Hoosier Outdoor Writers

Application For New Membership

(Check Desired Classification below)

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

Personal Information:

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

Professional Information:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Signature: _____

Sponsor: _____

Who We Are

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

What We Do

These are the purposes of HOW:

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

What We Stand For

These are what we strive to accomplish:

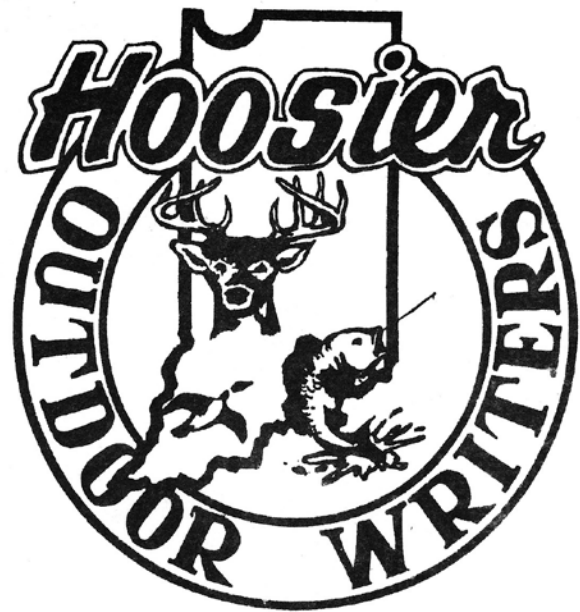
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor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

Membership Requirements

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

1. Active

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



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

2. Associate

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

3. Supporting

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

4. Active Student

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

5. Associate Student

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

Calendar of Events

ICAST Show 2023:

(www.ICASTfishing.org)

Orlando, FL

July 11-14, 2023

OWAA 2023 Annual Conference:

(www.owaa.org)

Gulf Shores, AL

September 9-11, 2023

AGLOW 2023 Annual Conference:

(www.aglowinfo.org)

Bemidji, MN

September 17-22, 2023

Indianapolis Fall Boat & Travel Show:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

September 22-24, 2023

Ford Cincinnati Boat, Sport & Travel Show:

(www.CincySportShow.com)

Cincinnati, OH

January 19-21 & 24-28, 2024

Cincinnati Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo:

(www.CincySportShow.com)

Cincinnati, OH

January 19-21, 2024

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*.