

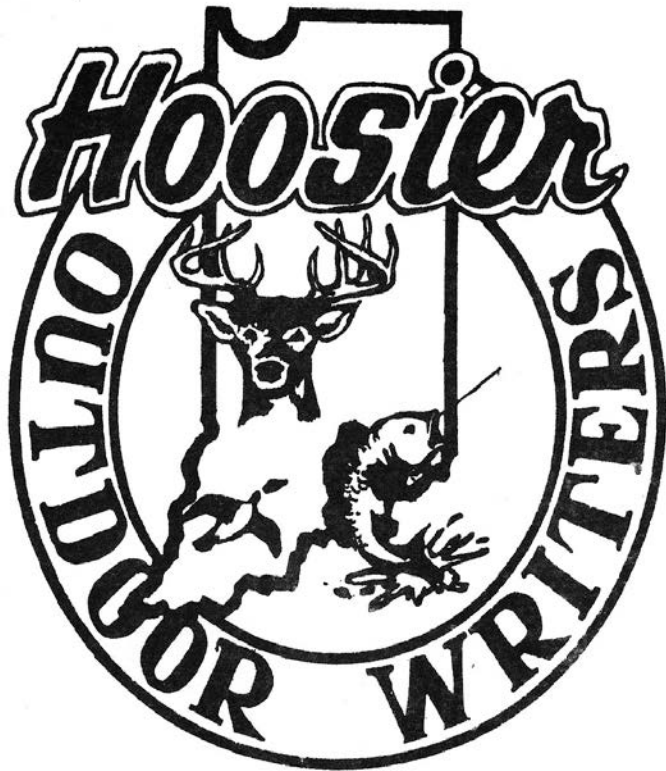
The Blade

May - June 2024

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Ruby-Crowned Kinglet Takes a Rare Break", 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.

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Executive Council

Board Chairman

Jarrett Manek
7234 Old Forest Rd SW
Corydon, IN 47112
jmanek@dnr.IN.gov

President

Bob Sawtelle
2350 Harrison Spring Rd NW
Corydon, IN 47112
blueriverbob1@gmail.com

Vice President

Marilyn Culler
204 S. Spring St
Greencastle, IN 46135
culler.photo@gmail.com

Executive Director

Tom Berg
2142 Nondorf St
Dyer, IN 46311
director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

Advisor

Bill Keaton
7070 Vilas Rd
Spencer, IN 47460
wbkeaton1945@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Tom Berg
2142 Nondorf St
Dyer, IN 46311
director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

Board Members

Region 1 – Mike Berg
2026
Region 2 – Rich Creason
2025
Region 3 – Gary Redmon
2026
Region 4 – Jack Spaulding
2025

At Large:

Phil Bloom – 2025
Mike Schoonveld – 2025
Brent Wheat – 2025
Rick Bramwell – 2026
Don Cranfill – 2026
Scott Weaver – 2026

All submissions and correspondence in regards to the newsletter should be directed to: Tom Berg (e-mail: director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org), or to Tom Berg, 2142 Nondorf St., Dyer, IN 46311. Portions of this newsletter may be reproduced only with the permission of the Hoosier Outdoor Writer's Executive Board and/or the permission of the original author or authors submitting the material. HOW website: www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org.

On the cover: *A tiny ruby-crowned kinglet stops for a moment on a spruce branch in northwest Indiana. These speedy little birds migrate through Indiana every spring on their way to the north woods of northern Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Canada to breed. Photo by Tom Berg.*

President's Message

by Ranger Bob Sawtelle

Retirement Restoration

I retired two years ago and turned 65 this past April. What I did not anticipate was how many projects and tasks I had deferred until I had indeed retired. Before I even start there is the task of clearing and organizing my barn.

I will not admit that I am an outdoor gear hoarder, but I sure have a diversified quantity of fishing, hunting, river craft and boat gear. And the boats, too! The annual Hoosier Outdoor Writer's meeting raffle has also contributed many small to large items.



The 40' x 50' barn of mine was entirely full of important stuff, but I have successfully weeded through enough to create a path from one end to the other. I have relocated some of the larger items such as the three wooden McKenzie River drift boats that I had built and used in my guiding endeavors. They have been assigned to the future repair and restoration list; all are nearing 35 years old. They have been moved to another barn.

An 1890 Adirondack Lake guide canoe remains in my center bay. I started its rebirth two years ago. It is 2/3 repaired and restored. I have committed myself to completing this project and to launch this wooden treasure by this coming fall.

A very good friend of mine and river guide from the northern state of Michigan recently drove down and bequeathed me his 14-foot inflatable guide raft. He stated it was a repayment and thank-you for giving him a McKinzie drift boat 30 years prior. He did not fool me. He had just purchased a new drift boat and he needed the storage space. He also just retired. It is currently stored inflated in my first barn bay. It can be ready to float within a day or two. I will not say I discouraged the gift, but it did add to my own storage problems!

Just completed: a most essential item has been repaired and made road-worthy again. My 2008 Palomino Bronco pick-up truck slip-in bed camper is now ready for adventure travel. It makes an annual round trip out west to Oklahoma, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah and Colorado. Then later in the season, it provides comfort and shelter during our Florida fishing endeavors. John Maxwell commonly partners up to join me for both adventures. John and I refer to our camper travels as "no agenda fishing trips".

The most important restoration effort I am committed to is "ME"! Some of you knew that I had blown my back out months and months ago. I had been going to physical therapy twice a week, and currently the gym with a personal trainer – also twice a week.

It is working. I have graduated to being able to ride my e-bike. I ride for at least an hour almost daily. It is nice to have a little extra "e" help going up the hills of southern Indiana. But downhill is still my favorite.

My point being in all the projects and tasks you are envisioning after retirement, make the restoration of yourself the most pressing and important. Prepare yourself for the forthcoming fun!

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents and Memorial Section

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

No new members for this issue.
See Member News Section
starting on page 11.

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
 George Tilford
 John Trout, Jr.
 Joe West

Past Presidents of HOW

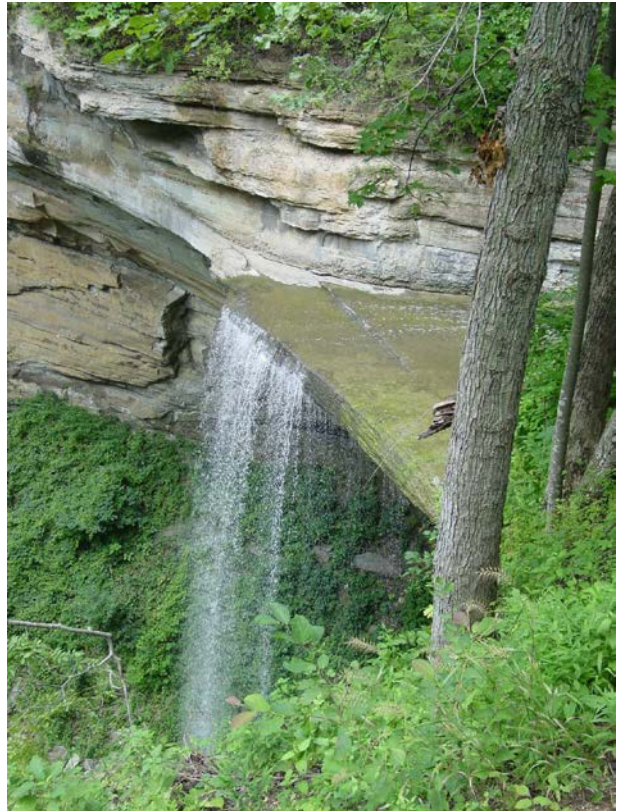
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1969
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1970
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1971
Bill Church	1972
Rick Bramwell	1973
Jack Ennis	1974
Phil Junker	1975
Ralph McHargue	1976
Tom Glancy	1977
Bob Rubin	1978
Jack Alkire	1979
Louie Stout	1980
Mike Lyle	1981
Jim “Moose” Carden	1982
Jim “Moose” Carden	1983
John Davis	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
Jarrett Manek	2023

HOW Conference Announcement

2025 Conference Site And Conference Dates Chosen

We are pleased to announce that the 2025 HOW Conference will be held in Madison, IN at the Clifty Inn inside Clifty Falls State Park. The conference will take place on the weekend of April 4-6, 2025, with the main meeting occurring on Saturday, April 5th.

The date of this conference was chosen very carefully to minimize conflicts with Easter, Mother's Day, turkey season and other spring events, so hopefully most HOW members will be able to plan their schedules ahead of time so they can attend. So be sure to mark your calendars and **SAVE THE DATE!**



A view of one of the four main waterfalls inside beautiful Clifty Falls State Park.



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

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

More details will be forthcoming in future editions of *The Blade*. If you have never been to Clifty Falls State Park, you owe it to yourself to visit next spring. Whether you plan to attend the entire weekend or just the annual meeting on Saturday, the trip to Madison will definitely be worth it. Don't miss the 2025 HOW conference!

Save The Date!
Conference: April 4-6, 2025
Annual Meeting: April 5, 2025



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 member Mike Lunsford, an award-winning Parke County writer and photographer, recently snapped some excellent bird photos near his home. He wanted to share them with the HOW membership, too. Here is his report:

“I spotted this **Northern Parula** (*Setophaga americana*), a variety of warbler, near my writing cabin earlier this spring,” he said. Parulas normally spend their time in the upper tree canopy, but this one fortunately visited Lunsford’s much shorter Amur maple tree for a short while. “My daughter and I had actually been near our woods looking for an owl we had been hearing, but we had given up and were walking back to the house when she heard several Parulas calling. I couldn’t hear them at all, but she did, so we just waited, and sure enough, one showed himself to us.” Photo by Mike Lunsford and courtesy of *Terre Haute Living* magazine.



Another report from Mike Lunsford:

“I managed to get a number of clear photos of the usually elusive **Brown Thrasher** (*Toxostoma rufum*) back in March of this year,” said Lunsford. “I was out with my camera along Big Raccoon Creek, and, of course, you can hear these birds very clearly. They have a beautiful song. But, thrashers normally stay hidden as much as they can. It was a nice clear day, and I spotted him near the top of a small maple tree and got pretty close to him. Believe it or not, thrashers will attack humans if they get too close to their nests. But this one just sat a while and let me hear his wonderful imitations.” Thrashers can mimic up to 20 other birds with their calls.

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: May 1, 2024

Lake Michigan Shore Angler Catches State Record Yellow Perch

Blas Lara was fishing Lake Michigan in Lake County during the Mayor's Fishing Derby in Hammond on April 21 when he landed a 3-pound, 2-ounce yellow perch, shattering a 43-year-old Indiana state record.

The previous state record for the species was a 2-pound, 8-ounce fish caught from a gravel pit in Vigo County by Roy W. Burkel Jr. in 1981.

The yellow perch record was the second long-standing record to fall in the Hoosier State this year. On March 3, Rex Remington set a new standard for smallmouth bass, eclipsing a mark set in 1992.

Yellow perch are native to Lake Michigan and popular with anglers due to the relative ease of catching them and their quality as table fare. Although the species' population has declined from its peak decades ago, there is still a strong fishery for large perch.



“Perch growth rates have accelerated over the past few years, with many reaching true trophy sizes at younger ages than in the past,” said Indiana Department of Natural Resources Lake Michigan fisheries research biologist Ben Dickinson. “Many anglers have been catching true ‘jumbo’ perch, in the 14- to-17-inch size class over the past two years.”

For more information about Lake Michigan fishing, visit on.IN.gov/lake-michigan-fishing.

To learn more about the Indiana Record Fish program, see on.IN.gov/recordfish.

Learn about purchasing a fishing license at on.IN.gov/fishinglicense.

To view more DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

Media contact: Ben Dickinson, Lake Michigan Fisheries Research Biologist, DNR Fish & Wildlife, phone: 219-874-8219, or email: bdickinson@dnr.IN.gov.

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

For immediate release: May 14, 2024

O'Bannon Woods State Park Receives New Hellbenders

O'Bannon Woods State Park has received two new Eastern hellbenders as part of its ongoing exhibit of North America's largest salamander, one of its many live animal exhibits open for viewing.

In cooperation with a larger regional program dedicated to the preservation and reintroduction of the species, the park's Hickory Hollow Interpretive Center has an exhibit dedicated to preserving the species and teaching people about it. In Indiana, the hellbender is protected as an endangered species.



The new hellbenders were recently received from Columbian Park Zoo in Lafayette. They are 8 ½ years old and approximately 13 inches long.

“They are eating and adjusting to their new environment very well,” said Jarrett Manek, the state park’s interpretive naturalist. “As an indicator species for healthy water, this species is one worth learning more about.”

The previous two hellbenders exhibited at O'Bannon Woods were transferred as part of the cooperative regional restoration effort among the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Purdue University, and other zoos across the region that has helped reintroduce hundreds of young hellbenders into the Blue River in southern Indiana as well into other Midwest waterways. Metsger Park Zoo in Evansville and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife each received one of the hellbenders last year as part of their respective breeding programs.

Hickory Hollow Interpretive Center is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information on the hellbenders and upcoming programs, call 812-738-8234 or see interpretiveservices.IN.gov. O'Bannon Woods State Park (on.IN.gov/obannonwoodssp) is located at 7234 Old Forest Road SW, Corydon, IN 47112.

Media contact: Jarrett Manek, Interpretive Naturalist, phone: 812-38-8234, or email: jmanek@dnr.IN.gov.

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

For immediate release: May 31, 2024

Indiana DNR, Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever Celebrate Expansion of Willow Slough FWA

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever dedicated a 172.57-acre expansion to Willow Slough Fish & Wildlife Area (FWA) today. The expansion will bring the property to more than 10,000 acres, which will provide important oak savanna habitat for wildlife in northern Indiana.

Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever purchased the property on behalf of DNR through their Build a Wildlife Area program, a program that raises funds to acquire and restore critical wildlife habitat and open it for public recreation. The DNR will use Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration funds — a federal excise tax supported by hunters and anglers through the purchase of shooting, archery, and fishing equipment — to buy the land from Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever and officially add it to Willow Slough FWA.

“Conservation is a team sport in Indiana, with partnerships making it possible to expand public access and conserve more land for wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation throughout the state,” said Dan Bortner, DNR director. “It is a great success story when people come together to help preserve more landscapes like we have here at Willow Slough, and we’re thankful for the support of Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever to make today possible.”

The parcel is Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever’s first Build a Wildlife Area program purchase in Indiana. “Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever was very excited to complete our first Build a Wildlife Area acquisition in the Hoosier State by partnering with Indiana DNR at Willow Slough FWA and add to their ongoing habitat restoration and public access programs,” said Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever State Coordinator John Kinney. “We look forward to our ongoing partnership with DNR on future Build a Wildlife Area acquisitions and habitat restoration projects.”

Restoration of the acquired parcel is in progress, with Republic Services donating four 40-yard dumpsters for a volunteer habitat clean-up event earlier this year. DNR and Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever are continuing to improve the habitat and prepare the property for public use. Once habitat improvements and property preparations are complete, the parcel will open to the public.

The dedication comes during a significant year for Willow Slough FWA as it celebrates its 75th anniversary and the completion of J.C. Murphey Lake renovations. To learn more about Willow Slough FWA visit on.IN.gov/willowsloughfwa.

Media contact: Mike Schoof, Willow Slough FWA property manager, DNR Fish & Wildlife, phone: 219-285-2704, or email: mschoof@dnr.IN.gov.



All Lost Fish are Big Ones – Prove Me Wrong

by Mike Schoonveld

I saw a friend's Facebook post recently in which he was showing off his first ever chinook salmon. He said it weighed 16 pounds then explained he'd hooked another but it tangled in a downrigger wire and broke off. He then reported, "The captain said it was easily 20 pounds."

I posted a comment to his remarks, "Every salmon that breaks the line and swims free weighs at least 20 pounds." Obviously, that's not always the case, but it's almost impossible to prove. Almost!

I was fishing with some friends one spring afternoon, let's call them Earl and Scott, since that was their names. We'd caught a couple of salmon when one of the downrigged lines danced to life and Earl, the closest to the rod grabbed it and hung on while we were all treated to the sound of the reel's line being pulled out as the fish made a mad dash for freedom. The mad dash didn't work, so it changed tactics. This time, the king swam rapidly up to the surface and made a half-jump out of the water like a saltwater fish trying to tail-walk. Success, from the salmon's point of view. The line snapped and it was free.

"Holy cow!" I said. "Did you see that fish up on the surface, Earl? It was a big king, probably over 20 pounds. It was three-quarters out of the water when the line broke."

"Really?" Earl said. "I didn't see it."

"Too bad, I said, "It was awesome and the fish looked huge!"

"Really," Earl repeated.

"Prove me wrong, my friend," I answered.

Actually, it hadn't looked that big, but who wouldn't rather lose a big fish than a little one? What's a little white lie among fishing friends?

Two side bars here in this story. First, we were fishing close to the mouth of a river where the fish were concentrated in the river's outflow. So we were making frequent turns and fishing in the same general area all afternoon. That's a common tactic in the spring.

Side bar number two – I carry two landing nets on my boat. Back to the story.

Perhaps a half hour later, we had another fish on the line and Scott was handling the rod. I was at the stern with one of the landing nets ready, coaching him as he coaxed the struggling salmon close enough to scoop aboard. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw a bit of movement from Earl, but I was concentrating on the job at hand and didn't see what else was happening behind me.

Fifteen or twenty seconds later, my job was done. The fish was in the net, I was lifting it over the transom and into the boat. As I turned, I glanced down and there was my other net lying on the deck behind me with a medium sized salmon – say 10 or 12 pounds - flopping around in it. "Where'd that come from?" I asked.

Earl said, "I saw the fish floating on the surface, just ahead of the boat so I grabbed the other net and scooped it up."

"Cool," I said, and then I noticed the fish had a lure hanging in its mouth. I rolled it over and as I suspected, it was my lure stuck in the fish's mouth. Evidently, when the line broke earlier, the fish had kept fighting trying to dislodge the hooks. After a half hour or so of struggle it was weakly floating at the surface, near to exhaustion when we happened along.

"Great! We got another fish and I got my spoon back," I said. Earl looked at me and then looked at the salmon, then looked back. "It doesn't look anywhere close to 20 pounds," he said.

"I told you to prove me wrong and I guess you did," I said. So not all salmon that break off, throw the hook or find some other way of avoiding the net are 20 pounders. But most of them are! Prove me wrong....



HOW Member News

Introducing “Tom Berg Turtle Rescues, LLC”

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg has been making a trip to northwest Wisconsin in June every year for the past 25 years. Fishing is his main focus, but wildlife watching and birding are also high on the agenda. He usually sees some big snapping turtles while fishing out on the boat, too, but this year he also saw some while driving out on the local roads.

“My wife and I were driving over to a nearby lake to fish below the dam at the lake’s outlet,” said Berg. “On the way there we saw something big and dark in the road ahead, right at a “Y” intersection in the road. I thought it might be an animal of some sort, but it wasn’t moving as we got closer. Was it dead? When we got close enough to see what it was, we both said ‘**Turtle!**’ at the same time. It wasn’t dead – it was just a snapping turtle trying to cross the



road. It was a big one, too!”



“I didn’t want any passing cars to hit it, so I pulled over and put my hazard lights on,” continued Berg. “Then I got out and walked over to it. It had only made it about halfway across the road, but then it stopped and wouldn’t move. When I bent over to pick it up, I suddenly realized just how big it was. It was a king-sized snapping turtle – and it was really heavy!”

“I picked it up and moved it to the other side of the road, making sure I put it on the side it was heading for. As soon as its feet hit the ground it quickly started moving through the weeds (quick for a turtle, anyway). It was headed towards the line of trees in front of it. It knew where it wanted to go, and I guessed it was a big female heading inland to lay her clutch of eggs.”

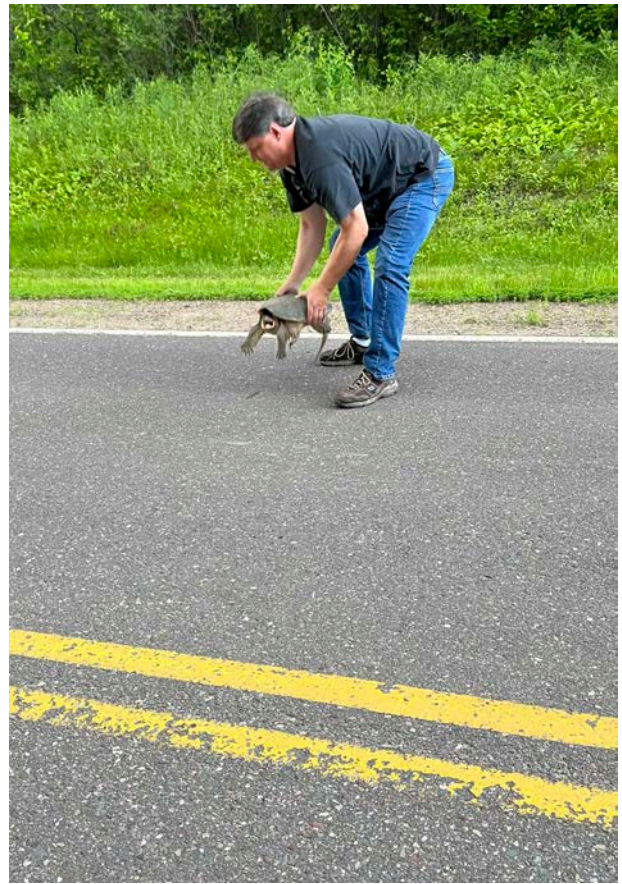
“Another car stopped to see what I was doing, and when they saw the turtle heading into the weeds they gave me a thumbs-up sign. Evidently I’m not the only one who likes turtles.”

“A few hours later we were done fishing at the dam, so we were driving back to our campsite and camper. As we approached the same intersection, we both saw another dark shape in the middle of the road, not more than 20 feet away from where

(continued on next page)

we found the big turtle earlier. It was another snapping turtle! This one was not nearly as big as the first one we saw hours earlier, but it was still a good-sized turtle.”

“That spot must be a turtle freeway, I thought. I pulled the car over again and went to help the turtle cross the road. But as I walked up to it, this one put on a burst of speed and tried to run away from me. I had to hurry to catch it! It had turned and was no longer heading in its original direction, so I picked it up and carried it to the side of the road where it was initially headed. As soon as I let go, it took off through the weeds just like the first turtle had.”



“I have helped numerous turtles across various roads throughout the years, but never two big turtles in one day. It always makes me feel good to rescue turtles like this, too, because they stand little chance against cars and trucks that might accidentally hit them on the road.”

“We passed this same intersection several more times during the rest of the week, and each time we approached it we were on the lookout for more turtles. Sadly, we didn’t see any more.”

“However, if you see a turtle that needs rescuing,” said Berg, “just give me a call. I like turtles!”

At right: A whitetail deer pauses to see why this crazy turtle is trying to cross the road!
Photos by Tom and Lori Berg.



Butler Releases New Film About Montana Moose Hunt

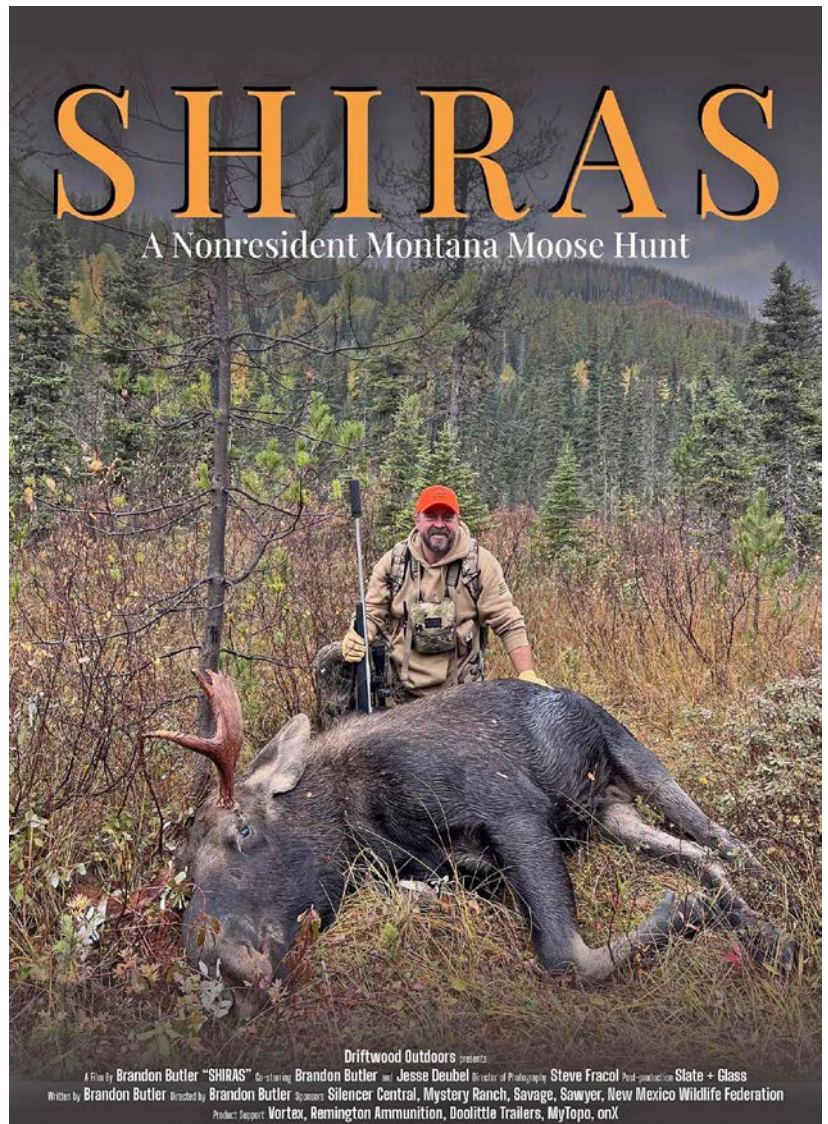
HOW Past President Brandon Butler is a serious hunter and has hunted a variety of big game and small game all over the United States. He grew up in Crown Point, IN and has lived in many places and other states, and currently lives in Missouri. Here is what he has to say about his new film:

“Outdoors communication has changed dramatically since I first published my first Driftwood Outdoors column in September of 2006,” stated Butler. “Writers have become photographers. Radio show hosts are now podcasters. Social media influencers didn’t exist but today are a major source of content. Above all, video dominates the scene. I have now added the title of filmmaker to my resume.”

“My first film, *SHIRAS: A Nonresident Montana Moose Hunt*, recently debuted on Carbon TV and the Driftwood Outdoors YouTube channel. I put off joining the outdoor television boom of the last couple of decades mostly out of disdain for how hunting has been portrayed by too many folks in front of cameras. The ridiculous reactions to shooting game. The staged and recreated scenarios. The NASCAR like hawking of products. It all left a horrible taste in my mouth. Most of the conservation-minded hunters I call friends share this feeling.”

“Yet, films can be a powerful medium for education and entertainment. If you have been reading my Driftwood Outdoors column for any length of time, or listening to the podcast, you should by now know where my heart lies. Perpetuating care and concern for the conservation of fish and wildlife is my focus. Doing so through political involvement has been my lane. My extensive interaction with politics has made clear the reality that at the end of the day, most issues come down to money.”

“Non-resident hunters are an issue in most states. Especially out west, where tags are usually allocated through a lottery. Residents of states like Montana, Colorado, New Mexico and more often feel slighted when a nonresident hunter draws a coveted tag residents have been unable to draw in their lifetime. It’s a double-edged sword though, because nonresidents pay far more for the privilege to hunt in those states than the residents. Thus, nonresidents significantly contribute to the conservation coffers that fund the natural resources the residents care about.”



(continued on next page)

“*SHIRAS* is the story of my dream hunt 18 years in the making. I moved to Montana in 2003. As soon as I became a resident, I began applying for moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat permits. I moved back to the Midwest in 2006 and have continued to apply every year as a nonresident. I’ve spent thousands of dollars to receive, year after year, disappointing “Unsuccessful” notifications. This ended in the summer of 2023 when I finally opened a long-anticipated email acknowledging my hunting permit of a lifetime had finally been drawn.”

“I went to work right away formulating a plan. Hunting the rugged mountainous landscape west of Glacier National Park includes serious challenges to a flatlander, but through a rapidly developed network, I was able to acquire the knowledge needed to have a fighting chance at wrapping my tag on the trophy of a lifetime. I knew I had to enlist the help of friends. Once my hardcore sportswoman girlfriend, Lauren, agreed to join me on the hunt, my first call was to experienced backcountry hunter, Jesse Deubel.”

“Jesse is the executive director of the New Mexico Wildlife Federation. He grew up in the small village of La Puebla near Espanola, New Mexico. His earliest memories include following his dad through knee-deep snow in the Carson National Forest in search of mule deer when he was six. By age 12, Jesse had experienced his first true backcountry hunt for wild turkey miles deep in the Aldo Leopold Wilderness. At 15, Jesse harvested his first elk with a bow and arrow in the Gila Wilderness. So, he’s as experienced in the backcountry as anyone I know. When I asked if he’d join me on this hunt to help haul a moose out of the mountains, he said yes before I finished the question. He co-stars in the film.”

“Once I decided I wanted to film the hunt, I took a shot and called Hollywood cameraman, Steve Fracol, who was suffering downtime due to the writer’s strike. Steve is a decorated industry veteran with credits on shows like *Scandal*, *Grey’s Anatomy*, *Sons of Anarchy*, and *Shameless*. He shot films like *Land of the Lost*, *Green Lantern* and *Deep Impact*. I couldn’t believe it when he said he’d love to come along and film the adventure. His work on the film speaks for itself.”

“To round out the production, my good friend and producer of the now famous Mossy Oak documentary *The Colonel & The Fox*, Nathaniel Maddux, and his team at Slate + Glass handled all the post-production. They captured my vision of the story exactly as I explained. I was truly blessed to put this all-star team together to produce a film I am incredibly proud of.”

“*SHIRAS* explores the intricacies of the hunt. The people and places associated with all that goes into a nonresident, do-it-yourself experience of this magnitude. We set out to accomplish what at times seemed impossible – finding a bull moose in the wild country of northwest Montana and successfully ending a dream hunt decades in the making. All on our own, without a guide or outfitter.”

“Once successful on the hunt, we turned to telling the story of how nonresident hunters impact a community economically. We filmed scenes at a meat processing facility, a woman-owned fur tanning business, a local taxidermist, saloon, and a tire repair shop. We hoped to show our positive impact on the area as visitors. I feel we were successful in showcasing how valuable nonresident hunters are as an economic stimulus to rural regions of our country. It was a different spin to a hunting film. One I hope that you and others will recognize the importance of – and appreciate.”

“If you are interested in checking out *SHIRAS* and learning more about how nonresident hunters have an economic impact where they travel to hunt, you can view the film on Carbon TV and on YouTube. If you enjoy it and would be willing to share the film, hopefully the positive message of hunters from out-of-state bringing financial benefit to stores, repair shops, restaurants and more will spread and will help paint hunters as important, positive members of society.”

Mike Berg Finds Cool New Fish Species While Attending 2024 NANFA Convention

HOW Board Member Mike Berg almost always attends the annual NANFA (North American Native Fishes Association) convention, and this year was no exception. The convention this year was held in Broken Bow, Oklahoma, and it always provides plenty of opportunities for attendees to do some fishing in local rivers and streams and see what native fish species call the area home.



Above: The orangebelly darter is stunning. **Right:** The Caddoan longear sunfish and **(Below)** the Little River bass were recently split off as new separate (unique) species.

One of Berg's motives for making the trip was to catch some new fish species on hook and line for his Life List. As usual, he accomplished his goal.

"I fished in Missouri and Arkansas on the way to Oklahoma," said Berg, "and the fishing was good. I caught two new species in Arkansas: a strawberry darter and a Little River bass (originally considered a subspecies of smallmouth bass, but recently identified as a separate unique bass species by biologists)."

"In Oklahoma, I was lucky enough to catch four other new species. They included the Caddoan longear sunfish,

Ouachita Mountain shiner, Kiamichi shiner and the orangebelly darter. The orangebelly darter was particularly beautiful."

"I also caught many other fish species on this trip which I had already caught in the past," said Berg. "Northern studfish, western mosquitofish, spotted gar, highland stoneroller, bigeye shiner, redfin shiner, largescale stoneroller, starhead topminnow, grass pickerel, redspotted sunfish, dollar sunfish, bantam sunfish and orangespotted sunfish, just to name a few."

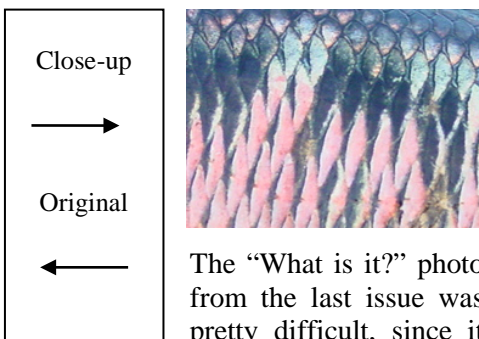
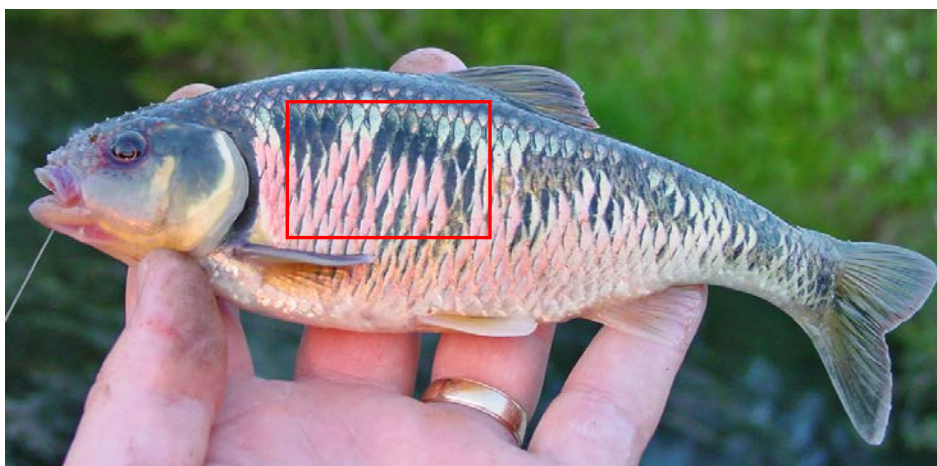


Mike Berg has now surpassed 600 individual fish species on his Life List – 602 to be exact. It is quite a feat. And he is not planning to stop anytime soon!



Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Z-Man Fishing Products

The Striped Shiner is Very Colorful During Spawning Season



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was pretty difficult, since it was correctly identified by only three (3) HOW members. Mike Berg, Jack Spaulding and John Maxwell were all able to identify it. Mike Berg and Jack

Spaulding reported that they have caught dozens or hundreds of these fish over the years, so they instantly knew what it was. John Maxwell has seen quite a few of them, and after a couple guesses he also got it right. When we drew a name at random for the **Z-Man Fishing** prize package, Mike Berg was the lucky winner. Congrats! We will get the prize to you.

As can be seen in the photo above, the mystery creature for this issue was a large Striped Shiner (*Luxilus chrysocephalus*) in its beautiful spring spawning colors. Striped Shiners are a thick-bodied minnow that inhabits small streams with bottoms made primarily of sand and gravel. Like many minnows, during the spawning season (usually May in Indiana), striped shiners become very colorful with hues of pink, orange, gold and blue being very common. They also develop bumpy breeding tubercles on their heads.

Striped shiners can get up to nine inches long as adults, which is fairly large for a minnow. They eat a wide variety of organisms, including worms, aquatic midges, dragonfly larvae, mayflies, caddisflies and other aquatic larvae. They even eat algae and other aquatic plants.



For this issue, our friends at **Z-Man Fishing** have donated another nice prize package for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be a pair of Z-Man fishing hats (summer baseball cap and winter knit hat) and an assortment of Z-Man fishing lures. See below for more info.

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

Tom Berg has posed another Nature Photo mystery. The photo shown at right is part of a close-up of a creature that can be found throughout the state of Indiana at certain times, and if you are lucky 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 ant, for example, go ahead and guess “Fire Ant” (of course, it’s not an ant). If you think you know the answer, send an email to thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you’re right, you’ll be entered in this issue’s prize drawing!

As mentioned, **Z-Man Fishing** (www.zmanfishing.com) has donated a very nice pair of Z-Man fishing hats and an assortment of Z-Man fishing lures including Chatterbaits, ElaZtech swimbaits and Micro Finesse jigs 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 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.

Bow Spider Adds In-House Anodizing To Its Made-in-USA Product Line

Kinnear, WY (June 11, 2024) — To reduce lead times and ensure faster delivery, Bow Spider™ is proud to announce that the company has added in-house anodization to its complete line of made-in-the-USA products.

“By having the capability to closely control our manufacturing processes, we can better serve our customers,” said Bow Spider founder David Merrill. “Because of our warehousing and current manufacturing processes, our online orders usually ship within 24 hours of receipt, further ensuring that we have you covered no matter where your adventures take you. It’s just one more reason why it’s great to support and buy from an American-made company.”



BOW SPIDER

Anodization is a process used to increase corrosion resistance, allow dyeing, improve lubrication, or enhance the adhesion of aluminum parts. With the addition of in-house anodization, Bow Spider can now offer these benefits directly to its customers.

The Bow Spider concept is simple and revolves around a lightweight, round bow holder. A short aluminum arm attaches to a compound bow’s riser or crossbow’s Picatinny rail and slides into a slot in this lightweight, injection-molded receiver. The bow is held securely in place via a proprietary gravity-locking system, yet slides out with minimal effort.

The Bow Spider Complete Bow Packing System includes one Waist/Tree Belt, four Corner Screws, one Anodized Aluminum Post with a rubber scratch guard, one Long Mounting Screw, and four Long Corner Screws. This system fits any compound bow and can be affixed to any pack, hip, tree, wall, or car for easy storage and access. The compound bow version has a manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) of \$94.95, while the crossbow version is priced at \$109.99. Both versions are available in multiple color options.



In addition to the Bow Spider™ Complete Bow Packing System, the company offers a wide range of accessories, apparel, Rick Young accessories, and special Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation products. By purchasing these products, customers not only benefit from high-quality gear but also contribute to conservation efforts, as a portion of the sales goes directly back to the foundation.

For more information on Bow Spider’s complete product line and to explore their offerings, including the new in-house anodized products, please visit www.bowspider.com. As a token of appreciation to those who have or are serving our country, Bow Spider also extends a 15 percent discount to all veterans on their entire range of products.

Media Contact: For more information, please contact Karen Lutto Leatherwood by phone: 804-539-6699 or email: karen@hunteroc.com. HOW members may also visit the HOC website at www.hunteroc.com or the Bow Spider website at www.bowspider.com

HOW Supporting Member News

Discover St. Croix Rods' New PHYSYX Game-Changing Spinning Rods

Park Falls, WI – Introduced just 16 weeks ago at the 2024 Bassmaster Classic, St. Croix's all-new PHYSYX Series of multispecies freshwater rods are conceived and designed to help anglers physically execute their mental gameplan. Put simply, PHYSYX exists to elevate the angling experience by increasing angler control in every physical action.

PHYSYX is a master of matter, motion, energy, and force on the water because its unique materials and designs converge to manifest a better machine. SCIV+ hybrid carbon fiber blanks, titanium guides, and anthropometric design combine to produce an evolved lever and conductor of energy. A molded carbon fiber TRIGON handle, DYNAMIX reel seat, and rear trigger afford bionic-level control, balance, tactile feedback, and maximum comfort.

Delivered to anglers' hands August 1 and being shown for the first time at ICAST, three all-new 6'3" and 6'6" spinning models with 100%-tubular, hybrid carbon fiber, extra-fast and fast action blanks— purpose-engineered and handcrafted to execute popular minnow-shaking techniques – expand the [PHYSYX Series](#) to 28 rods for 2025.

Tech-Forward & Technique-Specific

What's 2.5 to 5 inches long and weighs 1/16 to 1/2 ounce? One of the hottest lure types on tour – whether it's a Rapala CrushCity Freelander Pintail or Mooch Minnow, Big Bite Baits Scentsation Slim Minnow, Z-Man Scented Jerk ShadZ, Deps Sakamata Shad, Yamamoto Scope Shad, Strike King Z-Too, or something similar that none of us have even seen yet; these jig-and-plastic minnow combinations are dominating competitive bass fishing at all levels.

“St. Croix exists to design and handcraft rods that give all anglers the upper hand,” says St. Croix Brand manager, Ryan Teach. “Whether you have \$30,000 of electronics on your boat or no boat at all doesn't matter to us. What matters here in Park Falls is making sure we're offering the best tools for any job on the water. And when it comes to shaking a jig and minnow, there's no finer tool available than these three new PHYSYX spinning rods.”

The Ninja in the group is PHXS63MLXF, a 6'3" medium-light power, extra fast spinning rod rated for 6 to 20-pound line and 1/16 to 3/8-ounce lures. “This is the close-to-medium range rod in the series optimized for incredibly accurate casts with lighter, smaller-profile jig-and-plastic combinations,” says Teach. “It's slightly heavier twin – the PHXS63MXF – is the sniper. It retains the agile 6'3" length and highly accurate extra-fast tip but steps up the power to medium in order to



handle jighead-minnow rigs up to half an ounce. The final specialist in the group is the new PHYS66MLF, a longer-range assassin that handles a wide range of ultra-popular jig-and-minnow weights between 1/8 and 3/8 ounce. The PHYS66MLF is the choice for increased casting distance, or for anyone who prefers to shake on a slightly longer rod.”

Aside from their technique-optimized lengths, powers, and actions, Teach says two standout features make these rods excel in their intended purpose.

“The first is the rear-trigger design on the new TRIGON Carbon handles,” Teach says. “I'm not sure what we're going to do about it yet, but after fishing PHYSYX rods, just about all of our anglers have told us

they don't want to go back to a rod without a rear trigger. There's a word for your body's ability to sense movement, action, and location; it's called proprioception, and the rear-trigger design on PHYSYX rods simply gives casters an additional physical reference point that their brains and muscles can use to execute casts with increased and repeatable accuracy.”

(continued on next page)

Teach says the second standout feature that helps these PHYSYX jig-and-minnow rods perform better in their intended purpose – just like every other rod in the PHYSYX Series – is their SCIV+ hybrid carbon fiber blanks.

“We really don’t talk about it enough,” he says. “The SCIV+ layups for each of these models are completely distinct. Our designers remove heavier SCIV material and replace it with lighter and stiffer SCVI material at key locations along the length of every blank to optimize both flex characteristics and balance to perfectly support intended techniques. Plus, our IPC tooling and TET blank layups allow us to create these fast and extra-fast tubular carbon actions without any glass inserts in the tips, which is the common practice in the industry. Our design and manufacturing capacity to accomplish this is a really big deal because that transition to glass that can give a rod a really fast tip also comes at a cost... because it creates both a weak spot and a dead spot in the blank.”

Combine those exotic, one-off hybrid-carbon tubular blank designs with titanium guide trains and the new molded carbon fiber TRIGON handles and new carbon fiber reel seats which transmit energy like no other St. Croix handle design before, and you end up with rods that really do feel like an extension of your own body.

PHYSYX

MINNOW SHAKERS



NEW St. Croix [PHYSYX Minnow Shaker](#) Spinning Models

- PHXS63MLXF – 6’3”, medium-light power, extra-fast action, spinning / Retail \$345
- PHXS63MXF – 6’3”, medium power, extra-fast action, spinning / Retail \$350
- PHXS66MLF – 6’6”, medium-light power, fast action, spinning / Retail \$355

St. Croix PHYSYX Series Features

- 17 casting models and 11 spinning models optimized for high-performance freshwater presentations
- Next-generation technique-specific hybrid carbon fiber SCIV+ blanks
- Technique-specific iAct (SCIV+ and linear S-Glass) hybrid blanks on select reaction-bait casting models
- Fortified Resin System (FRS) technology
- Advanced Reinforcing Technology™ (ART™)
- Integrated Poly Curve® (IPC®) mandrel technology
- Taper Enhancement Technology (TET) blank design
- Ultra-durable, rigid titanium guides with silicon carbide rings
- Anthropometrics-driven split-grip St. Croix TRIGON molded carbon fiber handles with high-tactile TPU accents and molded carbon fiber DYNAMIX reel seats for increased comfort, control, and energy transmission
- Precision-machined aluminum reel seat nut
- Model-specific hook keepers
- 15-year transferable warranty backed by St. Croix Superstar Service
- Designed and handcrafted in Park Falls, Wisconsin, U.S.A. for anglers worldwide
- Retail price \$345 to \$415



PHYSYX isn’t for everyone. It’s for anglers who demand every advantage a fishing rod can deliver in today’s most effective freshwater techniques and presentations. Experience the all-new [PHYSYX Minnow Shaker](#) rods in the Freshwater Rod category of the 2024 ICAST New Product Showcase, at ICAST On the Water, and in the St. Croix Booth (#2223) at ICAST 2024. New PHXS63MLXF, PHXS63MXF, and PHXS66MLF models will be available for purchase at St. Croix dealers worldwide and online at stcroixrods.com on August 1, 2024.

Media Contact: For more information, contact St. Croix Rods Corporate Communications Manager Josh Lantz by phone: 715-762-3226 x 316, or by email: joshl@stcroixrods.com.

HOW Supporting Member News

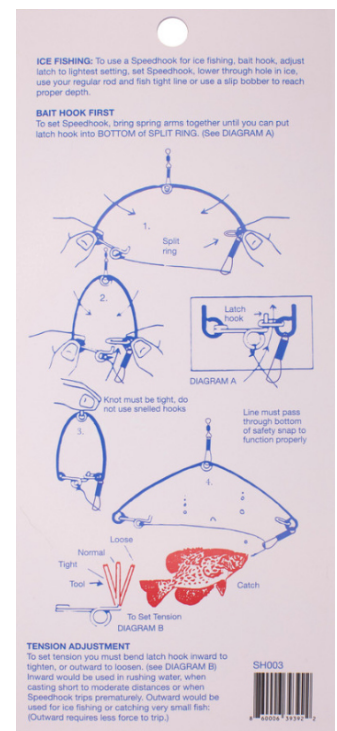
Northern Indiana Company Produces The Innovative Speedhook Device

Beverly Shores, IN: Speedhooks™ are made right here in Indiana by a small company called Speedhook Specialists, Inc. The Speedhook is a spring-loaded device that sets the hook in a fish's mouth automatically. As soon as a fish takes the bait, the spring-loaded mechanism is triggered and it automatically sets the hook. It creates such an advantage to catching fish that is it outlawed for non-survival use in some areas. The Speedhook is ideal for survival situations or recreational fishing. In fact, it is used by the US military in their survival kits.

The Speedhook best suited for panfish type fishing, but any fish that tries to take the bait is going to get caught. It is amazing for crappie, bluegill, perch, carp, rock bass, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, whitefish and catfish. To see the Speedhook in action, check out the videos on the Speedhook website (www.speedhook.com).

It sets the hook automatically! Features:

- **SETS FISH HOOK AUTOMATICALLY:** The Speedhook is designed with spring-loaded pressure, when set, to catch a fish. The slightest bit of pressure will trigger the device, causing the hook to set automatically, within a fraction of a second.
- **PERFECT FOR CATCH AND RELEASE FISHING:** The Speedhook sets the hook so quickly that there is no time for the fish to swallow the hook. Therefore, the Speedhook will always hook the fish's mouth, creating the perfect device for catch and release fishing.
- **NO FISHING POLE REQUIRED:** The Speedhook can be used with or without a fishing pole when a throw line is attached. It can even be cast when the tension is adjusted accordingly.
- **EXPONENTIALLY INCREASES CATCH SUCCESS RATES:** The Speedhook triggers with such velocity that it will produce a higher catch success rate and yield. It will turn nibbles into hits.
- **ESSENTIAL FOR SURVIVAL KITS AND BUG OUT BAGS:** With a Speedhook, you can set it and forget it with a throw line or a pole. This device can do the fishing for you while you spend your time and resources on other priorities.
- **EXCELLENT TOOL FOR ICE FISHING:** Because fish are slow to react in colder water, the Speedhook is an excellent ice fishing tool. It will hook a lethargic fish within a fraction of a second. Great for multiple fishing spots.
- **STAINLESS STEEL CONSTRUCTION (WIRE FORM):** The body, or wire form, is made with stress relieved and heat-treated stainless steel, making it extremely durable. The Speedhook can be set over and over again while always returning back to its original shape.
- **100% MADE IN THE U.S.A.:** All of the components of the Speedhook are acquired from U.S. based companies and the Speedhook is fully and proudly assembled in the United States.



Media Contact: For more information, contact Melanie Germek at Speedhook by phone: 219-378-6369 or 1-877-SPDHOOK (1-877-773-4665). Melanie can also be reached by email: admin@speedhook.com.

HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Al's Goldfish Company - www.alsgoldfish.com
Alps Brands - www.alpsbrands.com
Archery Trade Association - www.archerytrade.org
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Black River Tools - www.blackrivertools.com
BoatUS - www.boatus.com
BOLT Locks - www.boltlock.com
Bow Spider - www.bowspider.com
BPI Outdoors - www.BPIguns.com
Cauldryn - www.cauldryn.com
Church Tackle Company - www.churchtackle.com
Cocoons Eyewear - www.cocoons.com
Costa - www.costadelmar.com
Daisy Outdoor Products - www.daisy.com
Danner Boots - www.danner.com
Dardevle by Eppinger - www.dardevle.com
Ducks Unlimited - www.ducks.org
Egret Baits - www.egretbaits.com
Falcon Guides - www.falcon.com
Finn Tackle Company - www.finnspoons.com
Flying Fisherman - www.flyingfisherman.com
Gapen Company - www.gapen.com
Hawke Sport Optics - www.hawkeoptics.com
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - www.henryUSA.com
HHA Sports - www.HHASports.com
Hi Mountain Seasonings - www.himtnerjerky.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
LaCrosse Footwear - www.lacrossefootwear.com
LensPen - www.lenspen.com
Li'L Tuffy Swimbait - www.ramblingangler.com
Mack's Lure - www.mackslure.com
MEC Outdoors - www.mecoutdoors.com
Mepps by Sheldons', Inc - www.mepps.com
Mister Twister - www.mistertwister.com
Mongo Attachments – www.mongoattachments.com
Nat'l Shooting Sports Foundation – www.nssf.org
National Wild Turkey Federation - www.nwtf.org
Nesco Vacuum Sealers - www.nesco.com
Norsemen Outdoors - www.norsemenoutdoors.com
Nosler - www.nosler.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 Edge - www.outdooredge.com
Pheasants Forever - www.pheasantsforever.org
Pro-Cure Bait Scents - www.pro-cure.com
Rapala VMC - www.rapala.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
Seaguar Fishing Lines - www.seaguar.com
Shooter's Choice - www.shooters-choice.com
SKRE Gear - www.skregear.com
Smith's Products - www.smithsproducts.com
Speedhook Specialists - www.speedhook.com
Sporting Classics - www.sportingclassics.com
Spypoint Trail Cameras - www.spypoint.com
St. Croix Rods - www.stcroixrods.com
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - www.ruger.com
Swab-Its - www.swab-its.com
Sweet Owen CVB - www.sweetowencvb.org
Tales End Tackle - www.talesendtackle.com
Target Communications Outdoor Books – www.targetcommbooks.com
Toyota Motor Sales - www.toyotanewsroom.com
Traditions Media - www.traditionsmedia.com
Traveler's Guide to Firearms Laws of 50 States - www.bookvalueusa.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - www.ttiblakemore.com
Van Vuuren African Safaris - www.vvasafaris.com
Vexilar, Inc. - www.vexilar.com
Vortex Optics - www.vortexoptics.com
Whitetails Unlimited - www.whitetailsunlimited.com
WildTech - www.wildtechgear.com
Winchester Ammunition - www.winchester.com
W.R. Case - www.wrcase.com
Yakima Bait Company - www.yakimabait.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:

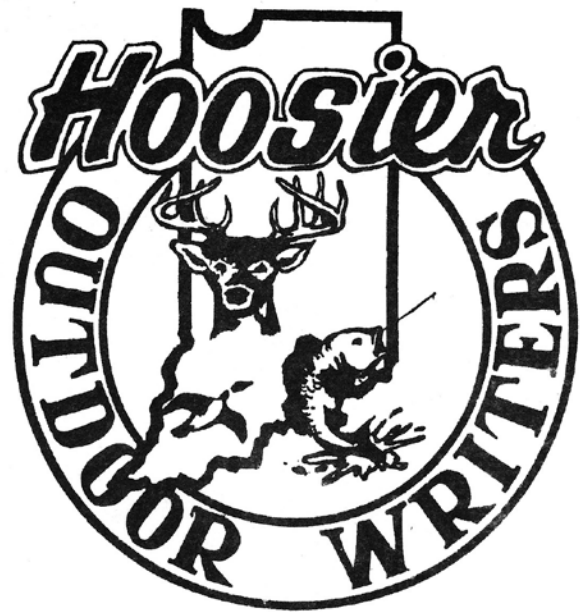
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor 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 2024:

(www.ICASTfishing.org)

Orlando, FL

July 16-19, 2024

OWAA 2024 Conference:

(www.owaa.org)

El Paso, TX

September 20-22, 2024

Indianapolis Fall Boat & RV Show:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

September 20-22, 2024

AGLOW 2024 Conference:

(www.aglowinfo.org)

Kentucky Lake, KY

September 23-27, 2024

Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

February 14-16 & 19-23, 2025

Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo:

(www.IndySportShow.com)

Indianapolis, IN

February 21-23, 2025

HOW 2025 Annual Conference:

(www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org)

Clifty Inn, Clifty Falls State Park

Madison, IN

April 4-6, 2025

(Annual meeting on April 5)

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*.