

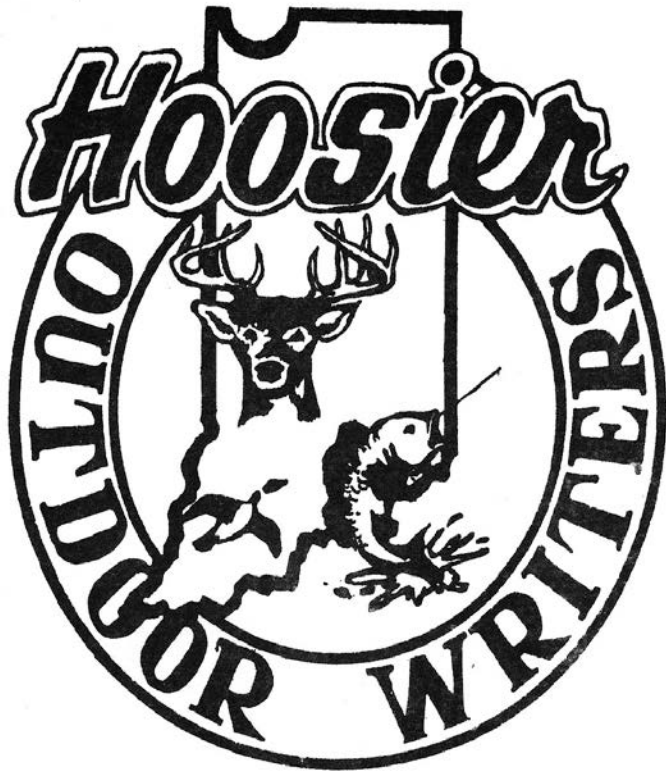
A photograph of a winter forest. The ground is covered in a layer of snow, with some dry, brown grasses visible. In the foreground, a large, fallen log lies horizontally, its surface also covered in snow. Several trees are scattered throughout the scene, some standing upright and others leaning or fallen. The trees have bare branches, and some have a light coating of snow. The background shows a dense forest of similar trees, creating a sense of depth. The overall atmosphere is quiet and serene.

# The Blade

January - February 2025

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers

"Winter Wonderland for Rabbit Hunters", 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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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](mailto: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](http://www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org).

**On the cover:** Long grass, thick weeds, downed trees and thick brushpiles make for perfect cottontail rabbit habitat. Rabbits need plenty of cover to feed in safety during the cold winter, and thick woody cover helps them escape predators – both on land and from the air. Photo by Tom Berg.

# President's Message

by Ranger Bob Sawtelle

## Individuals Can Make Conservation Gains

In 1975, the Blue River of Crawford, Harrison and Washington counties of southeast Indiana was designated the first Natural and Scenic River in Indiana. It certainly is both natural and scenic, and in some sections, it has remnants of being wild. It has some protection from residential and cabin development along its banks through the Blue River Commission which can permit or deny construction, timber harvest or riverbank disturbance. It has been an effective deterrent to the urbanization of its riverbanks.



When I was an Indiana Department of Natural Resources employee at Harrison Crawford State Forest and O'Bannon Woods State Park, my wife and I were able to promote and participate in Blue River Community conservation programs. These included the first task in the 1980's of removing the years of accumulated trash and debris from its waters and banks. This was mostly accomplished with a partnership and participation with Indiana Conservation Officers, IDNR local staff, local high school Agriculture students, Cave Country Canoe Rentals and willing Blue River landowners. This program continues today. I can honestly report that you can now float a river that is essentially free of trash and litter.

The second challenge was to identify point sources of pollutants, primarily outflow from wastewater treatment plants. Salem, Indiana with its combined sewage and rain water gathering and piping system was a major source of polluted discharge into the river. If you don't know, many wastewater treatment facilities are permitted to directly discharge untreated sewage into a river when river flows are high and the treatment facilities are at or beyond their storage capacity. Salem's sewage treatment holding lagoon and direct discharge pipeline to the river were removed in the 1990's, thanks to a grant from Indiana Department of Environmental Management with matching funds provided by The Indiana Nature Conservancy. Improved clarifiers and UV treatment of the outflow now provides cleaner water to the Blue River. Other Blue River wastewater treatment plants have also upgraded their facilities and reduced their untreated discharges into the river. Our river still faces water quality issues but its waters are much cleaner.

As a Nature Conservancy employee in the late 1990's, I personally led an effort to reforest the exposed riverbanks of existing agricultural fields. Well over 1,000 acres of hardwood trees were row planted in a minimum 30-foot width along the river banks. Some of the plantings exceeded a 300-foot width or more. The riparian tree plantings provided a vegetative filter strip to agricultural runoff of eroded soil, herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers. The result is less sheet soil erosion, sedimentation and less agricultural pollutants reaching the river. With the addition of conservation planting within the watershed districts of our three county Soil and Water Conservation Agencies, our Blue River riparian zones and river banks are mostly forested, maybe 70%. The shade provided by riverbank trees also function to keep the river cooler. This resulted in water quality improvement for sure, but also the establishment of improved wildlife habitat and travel corridors.

The following is not an entire listing of conservation actions taken to protect, conserve and enhance the Blue

(continued next page)

River and its corridor but they have certainly contributed to keeping the Blue River flowing BLUE.

What happened next and throughout the following years included plenty of interest and participation by private landowners, communities, and federal and state agencies. Actions and programs implemented with these partners have successfully enhanced the ecosystem of the entire river. Listed below is just a sampling of such:

- Freshwater mussel surveys and supplemental additions of threatened species.
- Hellbender surveys and the release of juveniles into the river, supplementing a wavering and aging population. Eggs and larva of hellbenders were discovered just two years ago. Natural reproduction has returned.
- A fishing regulation was instituted that protected smallmouth bass from 13-15 inches. All fish caught in that slot length must be immediately released. I had hoped for an upper limit of 17 inches but glad we got at least a protective harvest of 13-15 inches. Our smallmouth bass fishery is improving in both size and numbers.
- River otters were introduced and released into the watershed and seem to be thriving. Just recently a family of seven otters swam downriver in front of our homestead.
- Blue heron rookery sites can be found along many sections of the riverbanks.

The most exciting thing to my wife and I is the addition of a bald eagle's nest on our farm on Blue River. We live just upstream of the mouth of Harrison Spring. The nest overhangs the river and is easily visible from our farm drive and from the river. I was born in 1959 and grew up without bald eagles. Up until recently Alaska, Canada, Wisconsin and Minnesota is where you had to go to see our National Bird in the wild. Now they are nesting in our front yard and all across North America. Truly a wildlife habitat and species re-colonization success.

**The Message:**

Individuals can make conservation gains. Groups of individuals can make even bigger gains. Public and private partnerships are what moves conservation success substantially and more rapidly forward.

Join up and make a local contribution to your community conservation movement! My wife, Missi, and I did. And now we are blessed with a pair of bald eagles nesting and raising young on our farm and on our Blue River!

**Editor's note:** The photo at right shows the eagle nest on Ranger Bob's property. If you look closely, you might see a bald eagle's head sticking up above the nest's branches.



# The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents and Memorial Section

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

**Michael Sacopulos (Active)**  
Terre Haute, IN  
Sponsor: Phil Cox

**Kent Weil (Active)**  
Athens, IL  
Sponsor: Tom Berg

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

Jack Alkire – HOW President 1979  
Bill Beeman – Executive Director Emeritus  
Don Bickel  
Ed Blann  
Charlie Brown  
Gary Carden  
Jim “Moose” Carden – HOW President 1982-83  
George Carey  
John Case  
Bill Church – HOW President 1972  
Gene Clifford  
Jack “Big Jake” Cooper  
Mark Cottingham  
Larry Crecelius – HOW President 2003  
Jerry Criss  
Gary “Dox” Doxtater  
Dick Forbes  
Tom Glancy – HOW President 1977  
Dale Griffith  
Phil Hawkins  
Fred Heckman  
Marty Jaranowski – HOW President 1996  
Jack Kerins  
Mike Lyle – HOW President 1981  
Ralph “Cork” McHargue – HOW President 1976  
Dick Mercier  
Bob Nesbit  
Hellen Ochs  
Jack Parry  
Harry Renfro  
“Bayou” Bill Scifres – HOW President – **6 Terms**  
George Seketa  
Hal Shymkus  
Al Spiers  
Robert “Doc” Stunkard  
Butch Tackett  
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 “Cork” 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

## **It's Time to Renew Your HOW Membership**

This is a friendly reminder that dues renewal notices were sent out to HOW members near the end of December. If you have not sent in your renewal yet, it's not too late! Don't forget to update your Directory listing and send it in with your dues check. If you did not get a renewal notice, please contact Tom Berg ASAP ([thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net)).

We all hope 2025 will be a great year. We have had a fairly mild start to winter so far, but some members got a lot of snow recently, along with some brutally cold temperatures. But that's Indiana weather! We are busily planning and preparing for the 2025 HOW conference at Clifty Falls State Park, and we hope everyone can attend. There is more information about this year's conference and meeting (registration forms, lodging info, etc) inside this issue of *The Blade*, so keep reading.

Membership in the Hoosier Outdoor Writers provides a long list of benefits, including this full-color bi-monthly newsletter, *The Blade*. It is sent out via email and is also posted online. Other benefits include our annual Awards-in-Craft contests, the HOW Facebook page, a special "Nature Photo" contest with prizes inside each issue of the newsletter, our annual conference (including seminars and guest speakers), our annual HOW Fun Shoot (sporting clays, trap or skeet), an official HOW membership card which provides product discounts and allows entry to outdoor shows and similar functions, an online membership directory which lists all Individual members and Supporting members, and members-only access to the HOW website.

Of course, HOW membership also provides the opportunity for networking, the chance to learn new things, improve your craft and make new friends. Friendships formed at HOW functions can last a lifetime!

Dues for Active members is still only \$30 and dues for Associate members remains \$25. We are happy to accept personal checks or money orders. Please make all checks payable to HOW. We also accept credit cards and paypal on the HOW website – simply click on the Dues & Donations tab on our home page ([www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org](http://www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org)). Then you can click on the proper membership level and pay right there. We prefer that payment be made by check, though, because paypal does charge us a fee for the service.

The officers and executive committee at the Hoosier Outdoor Writers are looking forward to a fun-filled 2025 and we hope you will join us. Thank you for your continued support – we could not do what we do without you!

**Don't forget to send in your 2025 HOW membership renewal!**

**RENEWAL  
REMINDER**

# Annual HOW Conference

## Make Plans Now To Attend The 2025 Annual HOW Conference At Clifty Falls State Park!

The 55th meeting of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers will take place on the weekend of April 4-6, 2025 at the Clifty Inn inside Clifty Falls State Park near Madison, IN. Have you been to a HOW conference lately? This is shaping-up to be another great conference, so make your plans to attend now!

The weekend conference activities will begin with the annual HOW Fun Shoot on Friday, April 4. All HOW members who enjoy the shooting sports should consider joining us this year! Fun Shoot coordinator Tom Berg tells us we will be shooting Skeet at the Atterbury Shooting Complex near Edinburgh, IN. They have a nice facility there and we held our Fun Shoot there in 2013 – the last time the conference was at Clifty Falls.

Everyone who arrives at Clifty Falls State Park on Friday evening will be invited to a special barbecue dinner that we are planning. We will meet at one of the park shelters (exact location to be announced later). There will be plenty to eat and drink, and it will be a great opportunity to see old friends and make some new ones. All HOW Conference attendees and their spouses are invited. The activities sign-up sheet is printed on **page 11** of this newsletter.

The main meeting will occur on Saturday, April 5th. As usual, you don't have to attend any of the events on Friday if your schedule only allows you to be present at the Saturday meeting. See **page 10** for a copy of this year's conference registration form. If you register for the conference by **March 1**, you will get the **Early Bird** pricing and save a few bucks. So sign up today! We will have plenty of interesting speakers at the conference, featuring the following topics:



There are four waterfalls inside Clifty Falls State Park, and they will provide HOW members with some excellent photo opportunities. Make sure you attend 2025 conference to get in on all the fun! Photo by Tom Berg.

- **The Ohio River Fishery: Past, Present, and Future Management**

Phillip Kacmar is the big rivers fisheries biologist for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR). He is responsible for sportfish populations in the Ohio, White, Wabash, and Patoka Rivers. He will talk about the Ohio River, its fishery, and where it was, is currently, and future thoughts. Specifics include Indiana's commercial fishery, current management of a few species including catfish, and historical creel data. Between shipping, water levels, and multiple state agencies, management of fish in the Ohio River is a complicated process that DNR biologists must navigate.

- **Bird Watcher's Digest Magazine**

Michael Sacopulos, the publisher and owner of the Bird Watcher's Digest magazine, will talk about the magazine's history, what it takes to put together a national nature magazine every two months, and some of the challenges faced by publishers today. He will also discuss the types of bird photos and articles he uses in the magazine.

(continued)

- **Invasive Carp in the Ohio River Basin**

Craig Jansen, the invasive carp biologist for the Indiana DNR, will provide an interesting presentation on invasive carp in the Ohio River. As most people know, Asian carp are not just a problem in Indiana. Jansen will describe how it will take an enormous collaborative effort to get this issue under control. He will summarize the history of how Indiana's dedicated invasive carp work unit came about, and the role they play in the Ohio River invasive carp partnership. Great strides have been made over the past few years to significantly ramp up harvest and removal efforts within the Ohio River, and substantial efforts are underway to increase harvest and use of carp from Indiana waters. Complete eradication is a long shot, but continued innovation and hard work can reduce invasive carp populations to levels that will have limited impacts to our native fishes and recreational boaters.

- **Imperiled Freshwater Mussels in Indiana**

Brant Fisher is a nongame aquatic biologist for the Indiana DNR, and he will discuss freshwater mussels in Indiana. These mollusks are one of Indiana's most imperiled groups of animals. Over half of Indiana's 79 species are now considered extirpated or listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Habitat alteration/degradation, overharvest, water quality issues, and impacts by non-native species have all contributed to their decline. Their interesting biology, unique life history strategies, and current restoration activities for freshwater mussels in Indiana will be discussed.

## Another Amazing HOW Raffle!

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 surpass the quality and quantity of the last few years, but we will do our best! If you haven't attended a conference recently, come on out and see what it's all about!

We are also working on organizing a fishing outing on Sunday, April 6 for anyone who wants to stay an extra day and do some fishing for catfish on the Ohio River. We are currently working on the details and need to know how many people would like to fish. So please fill out the activities sign-up sheet and let us know.

The Ohio River is well-known for its fishing, especially for catfish. Here is a blue catfish – hopefully we will catch some larger examples on the Sunday fishing outing. Photo by Tom Berg.



For those who don't want to fish on Sunday, there are plenty of other options inside the state park. Hiking (there are more than 12 miles of hiking trails here), bird watching and nature photography are other great pursuits that will be available at Clifty Falls as well. Hiking through Clifty Canyon is popular, and hikers can also try the 'Four Falls Hiking Challenge'. Don't forget the individual waterfalls themselves. If there is sufficient rain this spring, the falls will be very picturesque. Be sure to bring your camera (or phone!).

Besides interesting things to see inside the park, the city of Madison is right next door to Clifty Falls State Park. There is plenty of shopping for the ladies in quaint shops downtown, and there are several historic sites, as well. In fact, Madison's downtown business district is one of the country's largest National Historic Landmark Districts. There is the Lanier Mansion State Historic Site, the Madison Railroad Station, the Masonic Schofield House (built in 1815) and the Schroeder Saddletree Factory Museum, just to name a few. Come to Madison and see it all for yourself!



# Planning to Stay Overnight at the Clifty Inn?

If you would like to stay overnight inside Clifty Falls State Park, you are in luck. We have a block of rooms reserved at the **Clifty Inn** at a discounted price for HOW Conference attendees and their guests. You can stay overnight or for the entire weekend. Our block of rooms is not extremely large, so don't wait to make your reservation. When you are ready to book your room, check out the details below. If you prefer to be closer to nature and camp, the Clifty Falls State Park campground is also available. The campground features 169 sites, including electric campsites, primitive sites, and youth tent camp sites.

## CLIFTY INN ROOM RESERVATIONS

**Group/Promotional Code:** Sent via email.

**Our rates are listed below. The HOW group code will be sent via email (we no longer print it on our website). If you lost it or if you need assistance making your reservations, contact Tom Berg (see below).**

**Clifty Inn**  
Clifty Falls State Park

1650 Clifty Hollow Road  
Madison, IN 47250  
877-563-4371

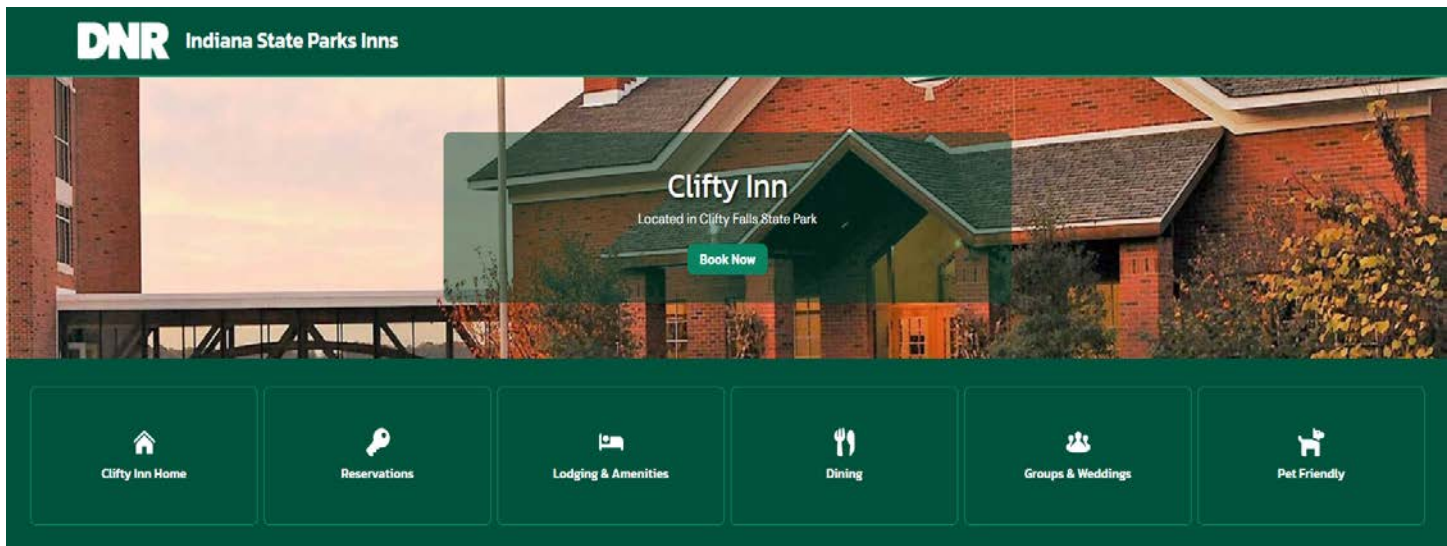
Clifty Inn, Riverview room with **Two Queen Size** beds:  
(Friday night 4/4/25 and/or Saturday night 4/5/25): \$124.99 per night + tax.

Clifty Inn, Riverview room with **Two Queen Size** beds - Balcony:  
(Friday night 4/4/25 and/or Saturday night 4/5/25): \$124.99 per night + tax.

Don't wait to make your room reservation if you will be staying overnight at the Clifty Inn. Our block of discounted rooms will only be available until **March 4, 2025 or until they are all reserved**. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Berg ([thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net)).

Note that you may book your room online or call the toll-free reservations line (877-563-4371). If you call, give them our group code right away. To book online, go to the reservations page for Clifty Inn and click on the **“Rate Options”** tab. At the bottom of the window that pops up, click on the field for **“Promotional/Group Code”**. Enter our Group Code and the correct price will appear with the rooms that are available in our block.

Remember, you can stay for one night or for two nights (Friday and/or Saturday night). You may also just attend the meeting on Saturday, April 5 and then return home. It's totally up to you!



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# Hoosier Outdoor Writers Annual Conference Registration

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**Where/When:** The Overlook Room inside the historic Clifty Inn located at Clifty Falls State Park, Madison, IN. Conference dates: April 4-6, 2025.

This registration form is for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 5th (8:00am – 4:30pm)

**Information to appear on name badge:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse's Name (if attending):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact information:**

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City or Town:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a first-time HOW conference attendee? \_\_\_\_\_

**Early Bird Conference Registration Fees:**

(Early Bird pricing good until March 1 only. After March 1, add \$5.00 each to register)

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

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

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

Conference fee includes continental breakfast and buffet lunch on April 5, 2025.

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

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

Questions? Email all conference questions to Tom Berg: [thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net)

# Hoosier Outdoor Writers Conference Activities Registration

Please register for the Pre-Conference and Post-Conference activities listed below which will take place on Friday, April 4, 2025 and Sunday, April 6, 2025. The only activity that requires an advance payment is the guided Sunday fishing trip, but please indicate the number of people planning to attend each activity so we can plan accordingly. Note that activities are reserved for registered conference attendees only.

**Contact information:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse's Name (if attending):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City or Town:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

Activity Registration Fees for HOW members and their spouses (per person):

**Please print this registration form and mail it along with your check (if you choose guided fishing) for each person attending. Make checks payable to "HOW".**

	X	Number Attending			Shotgun Gauge (20ga or 12ga)
Friday's HOW Fun Shoot*:	X		.....		
Friday Evening Barbecue: <span style="margin-left: 20px;">FREE!</span>	X				
Sunday Guided Fishing**:	X		=		\$
<b>TOTAL:</b>					\$

- \* HOW members participating in the Fun Shoot may have to supply their own ammunition, as we are still looking for a Fun Shoot sponsor. We will let the shooters know ASAP. The fee for the Fun Shoot will be payable at the Gun Club on the day of the event.
- \*\* The Sunday guided fishing trip on the Ohio River will include a guide, boat, bait and tackle. HOW members will only need to bring their fishing license, jacket, drinks, camera, etc.

**If you are planning to attend any of the activities listed above, please complete this form and either mail it or email it to Tom Berg at:**

**Tom Berg**  
**2142 Nondorf Street**  
**Dyer, IN 46311-1829**  
[thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net)

Questions? Email all conference questions to Tom Berg: [thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net)

# **The 2025 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest**

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

**QUAD 4 PLASTICS**

**For sponsoring the 2025  
HOW Awards-In-Craft Contests**



# The 2025 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

## HOW CRAFTS AWARD CONTEST RULES

The contest year shall be for material published or aired from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. All submissions, including photography, must have been printed, aired, published or electronically posted during the contest year (entrant must have been a HOW member when the work was published).

The author, photographer or broadcaster must be an Active or Associate member of HOW.

The author, photographer or broadcaster must have been paid a standard rate for any work entered in the contest. Photos or articles published on a private Website or a not-for-hire Website will not be accepted. Photos/articles that are published, or radio/TV programs that are broadcast in trade for advertising or other non-monetary remuneration or for gratuitous fees (such as \$1) are not permitted.

At this time, blogs will not be accepted as an article. Photo essays (where the only writing is in the captions) will also not be accepted as an article. These types of entries will be disqualified.

This year we will again allow electronic submissions only. We no longer accept paper entries. This has resulted in much less work for entrants, contest coordinators and judges. It also conserves valuable natural resources, which is something we can all be proud of. Entries must be submitted via email. The only exception is the broadcast division, where tapes and CD/DVDs are also allowed. See the rules below for more details.

### **RULES FOR SUBMISSION**

- 1) Contest entries must be in an electronic form. Entries must be emailed no later than midnight on February 15, 2025. Entries emailed after that date will be disqualified. Send all entries to the proper contest coordinator.
- 2) An official HOW contest entry form must accompany each entry. The entry form must also be sent electronically. Please type entry details into the form (an electronic copy of the form will be provided).
- 3) Send no material that needs to be returned. No original material is required. As mentioned above, print contest entries and photo contest entries must be sent in an electronic form. In the broadcast contest, links, DVDs, CDs, tapes and other recordings are welcome.
- 4) All submissions of print entries (either from traditional paper or electronic media) must consist of one electronic copy of each article with bylines removed. This file must be text only – do not scan tearsheets or newspaper/magazine pages. Do not include photos or photo captions. This electronic copy must be submitted as a Microsoft Word Document (.doc) or as a PDF file (.pdf). Entries not following these rules will be disqualified. As mentioned, print entry files must be emailed by the deadline.
- 5) Entries into the broadcast category require only one tape or recording and may be sent by tape cassette, CD, VHS or DVD formats. Online links can also be sent. Radio and television entries may carry the broadcast station's name and call letters if they are on "as aired" dubbed tapes. TV entries should be dubbed minus commercials if possible to facilitate judging.
- 6) Entries in the photography division must consist of one electronic (digital) copy of each photo. This electronic copy must be saved as a JPEG file (.jpg or .jpeg). Prints, slides and paper copies of photos will not be accepted. Please include a title for each photo entry. Digitally produced photos should not be substantially manipulated. Allowable photo enhancement is limited to standard shooting/darkroom techniques, such as color correction, contrast control and image cropping.
- 7) An individual article, photo or broadcast may only be entered in one category/division. Entering the same piece in multiple categories/divisions will result in the disqualification of duplicate entries.
- 8) There is a limit of two entries per category.

**For all Article entries, send submissions to the Writing Contest Coordinator:**

Dave Hoffman, Email: [contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org](mailto:contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org)

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

John Martino, Email: [jmartinooutdoors@att.net](mailto:jmartinooutdoors@att.net)

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

Tom Berg, Email: [thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net)

### **CONTEST DIVISIONS**

- 1) Writing articles published as 1,000 words or less (Magazine, Newspaper, E-zine).
- 2) Writing articles published as more than 1,000 words (Magazine, Newspaper, E-zine).
- 3) Photography
- 4) Broadcast (Radio-TV-Video)

### **WRITING ARTICLE CATEGORIES**

- 1) Hunting/Trapping
- 2) Fishing
- 3) Conservation
- 4) General Outdoors (other than hunting, fishing, trapping)

### **BROADCAST CATEGORIES**

- 9) Best Radio Broadcast
- 10) Best TV Broadcast
- 11) Best Video

### **PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES**

- 5) Hunting/Trapping
- 6) Fishing
- 7) Outdoor Scenic
- 8) Outdoor Recreation (other than hunting, fishing, trapping)

## **2025 HOW AWARDS-IN-CRAFT CONTEST ENTRY FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Category \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Where published/aired: \_\_\_\_\_

Publication/air date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Entries and forms must be emailed or postmarked no later than February 15, 2025**



## Hoosier Outdoor Writers Turn in a Poacher/Polluter Writing Contest Official 2024 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 again **\$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, 2024** and **December 31, 2024**. 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](mailto:phil@djcase.com)). They must be emailed by March 1, 2025.**

### 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 or 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](http://www.tip.IN.gov)

If your TIP leads to an arrest, you may receive as much as a \$500 reward, and you can remain anonymous. More information is available at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2745.htm>



## Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

We have been asking HOW members to submit photos and reports about interesting or unusual birds that they have seen during their outdoor adventures. The sightings do not have to take place in Indiana; anywhere in the world is fair game. All photos here 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 Dean Shadley:

HOW member Dean Shadley was away from the group for a while, but he is actually a long-time member. Now that he is back, here is his birding report:

Shadley took the photo of this female **Red-Bellied Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes carolinus*) near his cabin in Franklin County. Male red-bellied woodpeckers have a red nape and a red crown, while females lack the red crown. He used his Nikon SLR and a Tamron 150-600 lens for this colorful photo.



“My cabin sits on the point of a long ridge that overlooks the Salt Creek valley,” he explained. “When I built the cabin, I opened up the forest in front to enjoy the view. This created the perfect spot to set a birdfeeder.”

“The five acres around the cabin are planted to native grasses and wildflowers, a perfect environment for tons of insects. Various types of songbirds utilize the trees and brushy area on either side of the opening in front of my cabin. At times I manipulate where I want the birds to land by placing landing areas strategically. I might use barbwire, tree limbs or some other photographically pleasant backdrop.”

“I spend quite a bit of time at the cabin. It’s my go to place to get away from the world. For the most part, the area is heavily wooded. There are a few crop fields bordering Salt Creek directly below the cabin, too. This gives the songbirds a source of water, and the deer and turkey utilize the local food source.”

**HOW members** are encouraged to send their interesting bird photos to newsletter editor and bird enthusiast Tom Berg via email ([thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto: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 cool bird pictures.

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



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

**For immediate release:** January 14, 2025

## **Stay Safe! Always Assume You are on ‘Thin Ice’**

Every winter, thousands of Hoosiers safely enjoy fishing, skating, hiking, or just sliding around on frozen ponds and lakes. And every year, people drown after falling through ice.

Don't let this happen to you or anyone around you.

Indiana Conservation Officers remind Hoosiers to be careful as they begin to partake in activities such as ice fishing, ice skating, or snowmobiling. Remember to put safety first. Take caution when going on frozen lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, and retention ponds. And watch for others who may venture out on frozen waterways and find themselves in trouble.

Similar to needing to drive differently on snowy versus clear roads, safely having fun on ice may require you to adjust from what you have done in the past. The rule of thumb is to believe all ice is thin ice unless proven otherwise.

Here are a few tips to remember when considering standing on or walking on a frozen body of water:

- Assume no ice is safe ice.
- Test the thickness of the ice with an ice auger. At least 4 inches is recommended for ice fishing; 5 inches for snowmobiling.
- If you don't know the thickness of the ice, don't go on it.
- Wear a life jacket or flotation coat.
- Carry ice picks and rope gear.
- Before going on the ice, leave a note of your whereabouts with a friend or family member.
- Don't test the thickness of the ice while alone.



Wearing a life jacket is especially important when on ice. If you fall through, a life jacket will keep your head above the water until help arrives.

Remember that a new coating of snow, while perhaps beautiful, can make for treacherous ice conditions. Snow can serve as insulation, causing water to freeze at a slower rate. When snow and rain freeze into ice, it is not as strong as solid, clear ice.

Another potentially dangerous situation is when you see a pet or other animal in distress on the ice. If that happens, do not go after it. Instead, contact local emergency response personnel, who are equipped to make a rescue.

Enjoy the winter weather but make safety a priority.

**Media contact:** Capt. Jet Quillen, DNR Law Enforcement, 317-903-1671, [jquillen@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:jquillen@dnr.IN.gov).

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

**For immediate release:** December 30, 2024

## Outdoor Indiana Features National Natural Landmarks

**Outdoor Indiana** magazine's Winter issue features a cover story about the Hoosier State's 30 National Natural Landmarks, the second most in the country.

The issue also includes an article on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) program that plugs abandoned gas and oil wells as well as a photo essay on the Wabash River from source to mouth.

**Outdoor Indiana** is available now at Indiana State Park Inns across the state for \$4. You can subscribe online or by phone for \$15 for one year or \$28 for two years.

Subscribe at [ShopINStateParks.com](https://ShopINStateParks.com) or by calling 317-233-3046. To read article excerpts, go to [OutdoorIndiana.org](https://OutdoorIndiana.org).

To view all DNR news releases, please see [dnr.IN.gov](https://dnr.IN.gov).

**Media contact:** Marty Benson, DNR Managing Editor of Outdoor Indiana magazine, phone: 317-233-3853, email: [mbenson@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:mbenson@dnr.IN.gov).

Outdoor Indiana cover photo:  
*Dunes Nature Preserve at Indiana Dunes State Park is one of 30 National Natural Landmarks in the state. Photo by Brent Drinkut.*

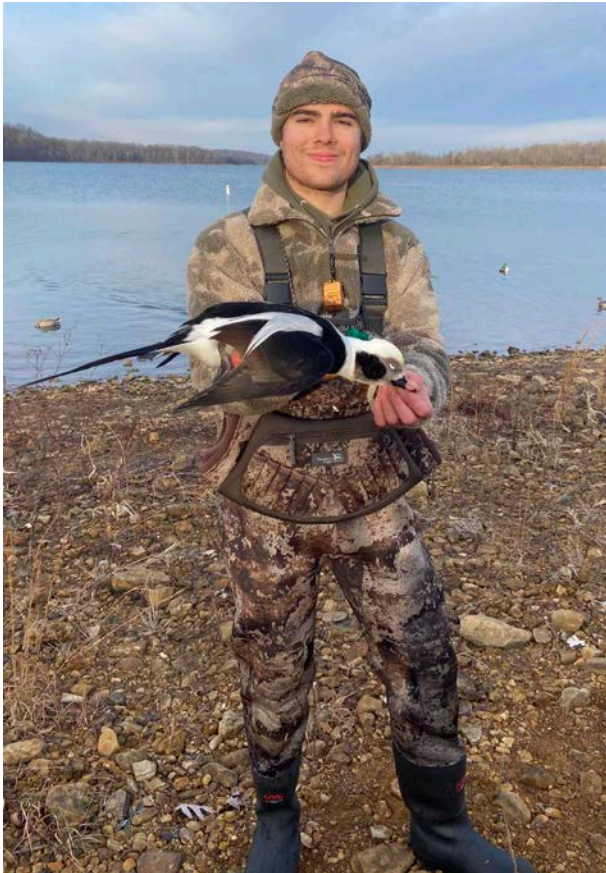


# HOW Member News

## Jarrett Manek and Family Spend Time Duck Hunting and Upland Bird Dog Training

HOW Board Chairman Jarrett Manek stays very busy with his job as a Department of Natural Resources naturalist at O'Bannon Woods State Park. Add to that the fact that he is also heavily involved

with the onsite working haypress barn, and training the young oxen that help operate the historic haypress. Of course, fish are always biting somewhere nearby and hunting seasons keep him busy, too! Here is a recent report from him:



“My son Wyatt was duck hunting at Patoka Lake in December and he bagged a rare duck for southern Indiana,” said Manek. “He harvested a beautiful **Long-tailed Duck**, also called an ‘Old Squaw’. He was very surprised.”

Long-tailed ducks are actually sea ducks that breed in the far north on the arctic tundra. After the breeding season, they spend the winter along ocean coasts, both on the Pacific and the Atlantic sides of North America. They also over-winter on large freshwater lakes like the Great Lakes. So finding one in southern Indiana is rare.

Manek explained that he has been working on training a new 11-month old setter lately. “I had two English

setters about fifteen years ago as well as an English pointer,” he said. “After all my pointing dogs passed away I sort of stopped upland bird hunting for several years. Now I have a new puppy and he is going to be trained on upland birds: pheasants, quail and hopefully I’ll take him out to Montana next year and hunt sage grouse and Hungarian partridge. After that, it will be ruffed grouse in Wisconsin. I’m excited to get back into upland bird hunting.”



**Above Left:** Wyatt Manek proudly displays the long-tailed duck that he shot during this fall’s duck hunting season. He bagged this beautiful duck while hunting at Patoka Lake. **Above Right:** Jarrett Manek’s young English setter gets some work done on training day. Photos courtesy of Jarrett Manek.

## Schoonveld and Berg Have Fun on Grinding Day

HOW Past President Mike Schoonveld and HOW Executive Director Tom Berg recently spent a whole day having fun on their annual Grinding Day. What is Grinding Day? Well, it's a specific day after the Indiana deer hunting season when family and friends get together to grind up vast quantities of venison and pork to make sausage and other good things to eat.

On Grinding Day we make all kinds of meat products: Italian sausage, jalapeno brats, regular brats, cheese brats, breakfast sausage, pepperoni, bologna, kielbasa, summer sausage, snack sticks, hamburger patties, bulk hamburger and more. Everyone makes two or three of their favorites. It's a meat-lover's extravaganza!

Besides Berg, three of Schoonveld's brothers took part in the event this year, along with his son-in-law, two of his nephews and a couple more family friends. Everyone had their favorite recipes ready for the products they planned to make, and it was "all hands on deck" for most of the day. Three heavy-duty motorized grinders were in use, along with a motorized sausage-stuffing machine, a manual sausage-stuffing machine, an automatic hamburger patty maker and a heavy-duty vacuum sealing machine!

Mike Schoonveld had his own recipe for the breakfast sausage and the pepperoni, but he used a kit from HOW Supporting Member Hi Mountain Seasonings to make the bologna. Tom Berg used Schoonveld's recipe for breakfast sausage, but he had his own recipe for Italian sausage. He was also planning to make a double batch of snack sticks, and he used two kits from Hi Mountain Seasonings to make those. One batch



**Above:** Caleb Schoonveld works on stuffing natural casings to make Italian sausage. **Left:** More venison and pork go through the grinder. **Below:** One of the Snackin' Sticks kit from Hi Mountain Seasonings.



was Hi Mountain's Hickory Blend Snackin' Sticks, and the other was Hi Mountain's Original Blend Snackin' Sticks. The kits made the process quick and easy, especially since they came with everything necessary to make the sticks, including the edible collagen casings.

It was fun to make the different meat products and see what the other guys were making, too. After a full morning of grinding and stuffing sausage casings, at lunchtime we fired-up the charcoal grill and cooked-up some of our creations. Everything was great!

With all of the different products that were being made, we worked well into



(continued on next page)



**Left:** A tray full of finished brats is ready for the final stage, which is wrapping or vacuum-packing. **Middle:** Coils of snack sticks on cookie sheets that were pulled out of the oven to check their internal temperature. **Bottom:** The Nesco vacuum-sealer got a workout, sealing many packages of cooked snack sticks. Grinding Day photos by Tom Berg.

the evening and long after dark. It was a lot of work, but it was satisfying work. Especially when we thought about the bounty that would be in our freezers to be enjoyed by our families for the rest of the year!

The following day was reserved for cooking the items that needed to be cooked before freezing, like the snack sticks, pepperoni and bologna. Berg and Schoonveld each did their cooking at their own homes, and it took most of that day as well.

Schoonveld cooked his snack sticks, pepperoni and bologna at his house while Berg cooked his double batch of snack sticks at home. Just like summer sausage, snack sticks must be brought up to temperature (165 degrees) and then plunged into ice water to quickly stop the internal cooking process.



Once the snack sticks were properly cooled and drained, they could be cut into the desired lengths and then vacuum-packed before freezing.

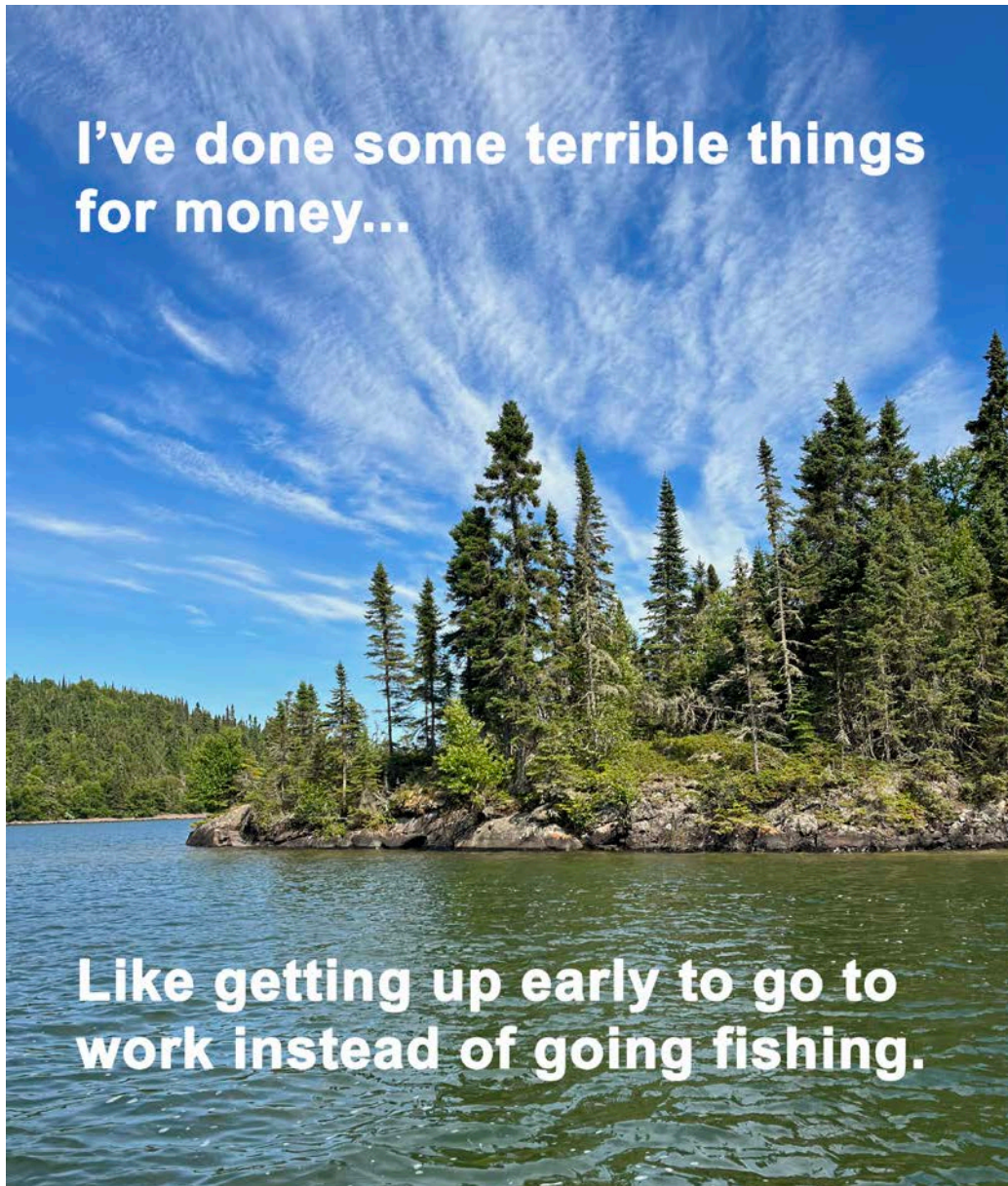
Berg and Schoonveld both have Nesco vacuum-sealing machines (Nesco is another HOW Supporting Member), and the vacuum-sealed packages went directly into the freezer. Vacuum-sealing these sticks is vastly superior to simply

putting them in a Ziploc bag for freezing. Frost always develops in the Ziploc bags and that can lead to freezer burn.

Of course, the snack sticks (each flavor) had to be sampled before storing them in the freezer, and they were excellent! Berg said both flavors were very good, and even though it was a tough decision, his favorite was the Hickory Blend Snackin' Sticks.

Remember that for next year's Grinding Day. It will be here before we know it!





## **Membership Changes and Member Contact Info**

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

**Michael Sacopulos:** P.O. Box 3396, Terre Haute, IN 47803, phone: 812-208-5031,  
Email: [mike@bwdmagazine.com](mailto:mike@bwdmagazine.com)

**Kent Weil:** 11054 Robin Lane, Athens, IL 62613, phone: 217-836-2682,  
Email: [kentweil.kw@icloud.com](mailto:kentweil.kw@icloud.com)

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

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

### The Silver-Spotted Skipper Butterfly is Lightning Fast



Close-up



Original



The “What is it?” photo from the previous issue was quite a bit tougher than other recent quizzes, since it was correctly identified by only three (3) HOW members. Mike Lunsford, Troy McCormick, and John Maxwell were all able to identify it. When we drew a name at random for the pair of stainless steel **Toyota** water bottles, Mike Lunsford was the lucky winner. Congrats, Mike! We will get the prize to you.

As can be seen in the photo above left, the mystery creature for this issue was a Silver-Spotted Skipper butterfly (*Epargyreus clarus*). This small butterfly is one of the most

recognized skippers in the USA, and one of the largest skippers, too, with a total wingspan of about two inches.

When it comes to butterflies that are fast “on-the-wing”, skippers like this one are near always near the top of the list. Like many skipper species, the silver-spotted skipper can be seen in parks, along roadsides, forest edges and fields where wildflowers are growing. They are especially attracted to flowers that are pink, purple or red. The flowers of thistle, clover, milkweed and anise hyssop are some of their favorites.

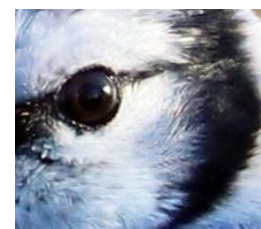
An interesting fact about the caterpillars of this small butterfly is they have some effective defensive tactics for preventing predators from eating them. The caterpillars can regurgitate a bitter-tasting fluid when threatened, and this often thwarts an imminent attack. Also, when these caterpillars eject their frass (droppings), they can expel it with enough force that it flies more than 30 body lengths away from them. This keeps odors and chemical signs of their presence farther away, thwarting predators like wasps and others.



For this issue, our friends at **Z-Man Fishing** have donated another nice prize package for the HOW member who is able to guess the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be a great Z-Man Bait BlockZ soft-sided tackle bag 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 below right is part of a close-up of a creature that can be found throughout the state of Indiana, and 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 beetle, for example, go ahead and guess “Bark Beetle” (hint: it’s not a beetle). If you think you know the answer, send an email to [thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto: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](http://www.zmanfishing.com)) has donated a nice Bait BlockZ soft-sided tackle bag and an assortment of Z-Man fishing lures including Chatterbaits, ElaZtech softbaits and Micro Finesse jigs for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s nature question. This is a great prize, so start thinking! If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw a winner at random from the pool of correct entries. All photos here 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.

### **The Trophy Rod Holder From Driftmaster Solves Flush Fishing Rod Holder Problems**

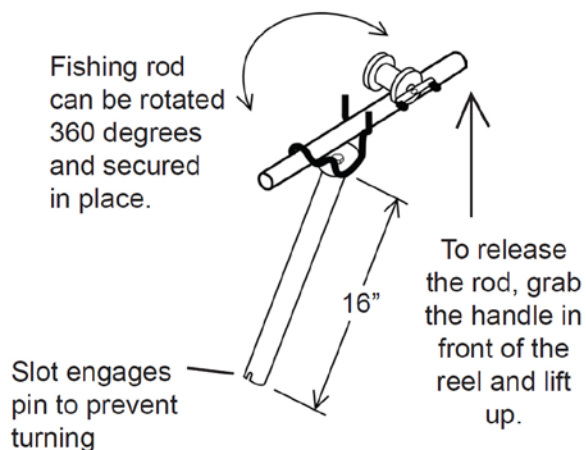


**Manning, SC** (January 5, 2025) – Black River Tools is a family-owned manufacturing company located in Manning, South Carolina. In the mid-1970's the founder, Calvin Baynard became aware of a need for fishing rod holders for catfish guides on Santee Cooper lakes located just three miles from the company. He and his 12 year old son, David began making rod holders with a torch and a vise in a small shop located in the back yard of his home. *Driftmaster* rod holders became known for holding a rod securely, but releasing the rod easily when you get a strike. *Driftmaster* spent years developing and refining rod holders, trolling systems and rod transport racks to equip boats to catch more fish.

After nearly 40 years of rod holder innovations, *Driftmaster* has done it again. Their most recent rod holder invention called **The Trophy** (patent pending) is designed to go into existing flush rod holders that come standard on many boats. Owner, David Baynard said, "I see many boats with flush style rod holders which can limit the angler to only high speed trolling because of the steep rod angle. Another problem is releasing the rod when you need to fight the fish. The handle can bind up in the flush holder making it difficult to get the rod out. We designed something to solve those problems and give boat owners more options for how they want to fish."

The typical flush holder is a tube that positions the fishing rod at a near vertical angle. The steep angle of the rod make it difficult to fish by any technique other than high speed trolling. The design also makes it difficult to get the rod out when you get a fish because the rod handle binds up in the tube. The *Driftmaster Trophy* fits into the tube of the flush holder and holds the rod at a near horizontal angle to allow better bait presentation. The *Trophy* rod holder makes it possible to bottom fish, drift fish with suspended bait, or troll. When you get a strike, you simply lift up on the rod handle to release the rod and fight the fish.

The *Trophy* is stainless steel from top to bottom. The bottom of the tube has a notch to engage the pin in the flush holder and prevent the tube from turning. The rod holder cradle is rubber coated to protect rods. It is secured to the down tube with a stainless bolt that allows adjustment side to side but tightens to hold the rod in the position you choose. The *Trophy* is made in the USA and guaranteed for life. The cost is \$145.50. Models for 15, 30, and 90 degree flush holders are available at [www.driftmasterrodholders.com](http://www.driftmasterrodholders.com).



**The Trophy** rod holder securely holds any rod or pole with a straight handle; casting or spinning reels.



## HOW Supporting Member News

### **IDDC Invites HOW Members to Attend The 2025 Visit Indiana Media Marketplace**

**Indianapolis, IN (Jan. 9, 2025)** – The Indiana Destination Development Corporation (VisitIndiana) wants to notify HOW members about the upcoming **2025 Visit Indiana Media Marketplace**. All HOW members are invited!



We are excited to announce that this year's Media Marketplace will be hosted at Gainbridge Fieldhouse at Salesforce Court. You will have the opportunity to connect with dozens of organizations and travel destinations across the Hoosier state in one location who are eager to tell their story.

Indiana is preparing for an incredible year with countless new things to see, do, and experience all year long!

Our team hosts the only statewide media marketplace (that we know of), and lunch will be provided. Attending Visit Indiana's Media Marketplace is **FREE**. If you have attended one of our marketplaces in the past, we would love to welcome you back again in 2025. **NOTE:** Sales representatives are not permitted to attend.

**Where:** Gainbridge Fieldhouse at Salesforce Court

**When:** February 27, 2025

**Time:** 10am - 2pm.

RSVP by clicking [here](#).

As a reminder, attending Media Marketplace is **FREE!**

Thank you.

**Media Contacts:** For more information, please contact:

Amy Howell, VP of Tourism, Marketing and Communications

Email: [AmHowell@visitindiana.com](mailto:AmHowell@visitindiana.com) or cell: 317.741.1320.

Justus O'Neil, Public Relations and Social Media Officer

Email: [JOneil@visitindiana.com](mailto:JOneil@visitindiana.com) or cell: 463.245.8562.



## HOW Supporting Member News

### Nesco's Premium Vacuum Sealer Featuring LiquidLock™ Easily Handles Both Liquid and Solid Food Items

**Two Rivers, WI** — NESCO is a leading provider of cooking and food preservation appliances. NESCO's range of preservation appliances makes it simple and efficient to keep your food fresh and flavorful. From vacuum-sealing meats to dehydrating herbs, their products have you covered. Watch the video on the NESCO website to learn the art of preserving food and reducing waste!

Introducing the patent-pending NESCO Premium Vacuum Sealer VS-22LB, featuring LiquidLock™ to easily seal liquids like soups, stews, and purees. It is the ultimate solution for preserving your food's freshness and flavor. This state-of-the-art vacuum sealer is designed to cater to both liquid and solid food items. The powerful 250 watt unit can marinate meat in minutes instead of hours. A \$70 value kit of bags and rolls is included. In addition to standard bags, 20 easy-to-fill bags for liquid vacuum sealing are also included.



- Seven custom settings: Dry/Liquid, Normal/Gentle, Marinate, Canister, Pulse, Seal, Vacuum & Seal
- Featuring LiquidLock™ to easily seal liquids like soups, stews, and purees
- Marinate in minutes instead of hours with the use of a canister
- LED display screen with progress indicator
- Built-in roll storage and bag cutter to make custom-sized bags
- Removable drip tray for quick cleanup
- Wide, double heat seal bar for added strength
- Accessory port with adapter hose to support vacuum canisters (sold separately)
- Easy, one-handed operation
- Includes \$70 value starter kit:
  - Two 11" x 20' rolls and one 8" x 20' roll
  - 10 quart-size bags and 10 gallon-size bags
  - 5 quart-size zipper bags and 5 gallon-size zipper bags
  - 10 quart-size stand-up bags and 10 gallon-size stand-up bags
- Power: 250 watts
- Compatible with NESCO and other brand bags and rolls

Remember, foods stay fresh longer when vacuum packed!

**Media Contact:** For more information, please contact:

Jodi Ott-Schwalbe

Email: [jott-schwalbe@mwcorp.com](mailto:jott-schwalbe@mwcorp.com)

NESCO Website: [www.nesco.com](http://www.nesco.com)



# HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Al's Goldfish Company - [www.alsgoldfish.com](http://www.alsgoldfish.com)  
Alps Brands - [www.alpsbrands.com](http://www.alpsbrands.com)  
Archery Trade Association - [www.archerytrade.org](http://www.archerytrade.org)  
B'n'M Pole Company - [www.bnmpoles.com](http://www.bnmpoles.com)  
Black River Tools - [www.blackrivertools.com](http://www.blackrivertools.com)  
BoatUS - [www.boatus.com](http://www.boatus.com)  
BOLT Locks - [www.boltlock.com](http://www.boltlock.com)  
Bow Spider - [www.bowspider.com](http://www.bowspider.com)  
BPI Outdoors - [www.BPIguns.com](http://www.BPIguns.com)  
Cauldryn - [www.cauldryn.com](http://www.cauldryn.com)  
Church Tackle Company - [www.churchtackle.com](http://www.churchtackle.com)  
Cocoons Eyewear - [www.cocoons.com](http://www.cocoons.com)  
Costa - [www.costadelmar.com](http://www.costadelmar.com)  
Daisy Outdoor Products - [www.daisy.com](http://www.daisy.com)  
Danner Boots - [www.danner.com](http://www.danner.com)  
Dardevle by Eppinger - [www.dardevle.com](http://www.dardevle.com)  
Ducks Unlimited - [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org)  
Egret Baits - [www.egretbaits.com](http://www.egretbaits.com)  
Falcon Guides - [www.falconguides.com](http://www.falconguides.com)  
Finn Tackle Company - [www.finnspoons.com](http://www.finnspoons.com)  
Flying Fisherman - [www.flyingfisherman.com](http://www.flyingfisherman.com)  
Gapen Company - [www.gapen.com](http://www.gapen.com)  
Hawke Sport Optics - [www.hawkeoptics.com](http://www.hawkeoptics.com)  
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - [www.henryUSA.com](http://www.henryUSA.com)  
HHA Sports - [www.HHA sports.com](http://www.HHA sports.com)  
Hi Mountain Seasonings - [www.himtnjerky.com](http://www.himtnjerky.com)  
Hornady Manufacturing - [www.hornady.com](http://www.hornady.com)  
Indiana Destination Development Corporation -  
[www.visitindiana.com](http://www.visitindiana.com)  
Kehrer Fish Company -  
[www.kehrerfishcompany.com](http://www.kehrerfishcompany.com)  
L&S Bait Company - [www.shopmirrolure.com](http://www.shopmirrolure.com)  
LaCrosse Footwear - [www.lacrossefootwear.com](http://www.lacrossefootwear.com)  
Lawrence County Tourism - [www.limestonecountry.com](http://www.limestonecountry.com)  
LensPen - [www.lenspen.com](http://www.lenspen.com)  
Li'L Tuffy Swim-bait - [www.ramblingangler.com](http://www.ramblingangler.com)  
Mack's Lure - [www.mackslure.com](http://www.mackslure.com)  
MEC Outdoors - [www.mecoutdoors.com](http://www.mecoutdoors.com)  
Mepps by Sheldons', Inc - [www.mepps.com](http://www.mepps.com)  
Mister Twister - [www.mistertwister.com](http://www.mistertwister.com)  
Mongo Attachments - [www.mongoattachments.com](http://www.mongoattachments.com)  
Nat'l Shooting Sports Foundation - [www.nssf.org](http://www.nssf.org)  
National Wild Turkey Federation - [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org)  
Nesco Vacuum Sealers - [www.nesco.com](http://www.nesco.com)  
Norsemen Outdoors - [www.norsemenoutdoors.com](http://www.norsemenoutdoors.com)  
Nosler - [www.nosler.com](http://www.nosler.com)  
Nothead Tackle - [www.notheadtackle.com](http://www.notheadtackle.com)  
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - [www.mossberg.com](http://www.mossberg.com)  
Old Salt Angling - [www.oldsaltangling.com](http://www.oldsaltangling.com)  
Otis Technology - [www.otistec.com](http://www.otistec.com)  
Outdoor Edge - [www.outdooredge.com](http://www.outdooredge.com)  
Pheasants Forever - [www.pheasantsforever.org](http://www.pheasantsforever.org)  
Pro-Cure Bait Scents - [www.pro-cure.com](http://www.pro-cure.com)  
Quad 4 Plastics - [www.quad4plastics.com](http://www.quad4plastics.com)  
Rapala VMC - [www.rapala.com](http://www.rapala.com)  
Renfro Productions - [www.renfroproductions.com](http://www.renfroproductions.com)  
Seaguar Fishing Lines - [www.seaguar.com](http://www.seaguar.com)  
Shipshewana/LaGrange County CVB -  
[www.visitshipshewana.org](http://www.visitshipshewana.org)  
Shooter's Choice - [www.shooters-choice.com](http://www.shooters-choice.com)  
SKRE Gear - [www.skregear.com](http://www.skregear.com)  
Smith's Products - [www.smithsproducts.com](http://www.smithsproducts.com)  
Speedhook Specialists - [www.speedhook.com](http://www.speedhook.com)  
Sporting Classics - [www.sportingclassics.com](http://www.sportingclassics.com)  
Spypoint Trail Cameras - [www.spypoint.com](http://www.spypoint.com)  
St. Croix Rods - [www.stcroixrods.com](http://www.stcroixrods.com)  
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - [www.ruger.com](http://www.ruger.com)  
Swab-Its - [www.swab-its.com](http://www.swab-its.com)  
Sweet Owen CVB - [www.sweetowencvb.org](http://www.sweetowencvb.org)  
Tales End Tackle - [www.talesendtackle.com](http://www.talesendtackle.com)  
Target Communications Outdoor Books -  
[www.targetcommbooks.com](http://www.targetcommbooks.com)  
Toyota Motor Sales - [www.toyotanewsroom.com](http://www.toyotanewsroom.com)  
Traditions Media - [www.traditionsmedia.com](http://www.traditionsmedia.com)  
Traveler's Guide to Firearms Laws of 50 States -  
[www.bookvalueusa.com](http://www.bookvalueusa.com)  
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - [www.ttiblakemore.com](http://www.ttiblakemore.com)  
Van Vuuren African Safaris - [www.vvasafaris.com](http://www.vvasafaris.com)  
Vexilar, Inc. - [www.vexilar.com](http://www.vexilar.com)  
Vortex Optics - [www.vortexoptics.com](http://www.vortexoptics.com)  
Whitetails Unlimited - [www.whitetailsunlimited.com](http://www.whitetailsunlimited.com)  
WildTech - [www.wildtechgear.com](http://www.wildtechgear.com)  
Winchester Ammunition - [www.winchester.com](http://www.winchester.com)  
W.R. Case - [www.wrcase.com](http://www.wrcase.com)  
Yakima Bait Company - [www.yakimabait.com](http://www.yakimabait.com)  
Z-Man Fishing - [www.zmanfishing.com](http://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

**SHOT Show 2025:**

(<http://shotshow.org>)

Las Vegas, NV

January 21-24, 2025

**NWTF Convention and Sport Show:**

([www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org))

Nashville, TN

February 12-16, 2025

**Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show:**

([www.IndySportShow.com](http://www.IndySportShow.com))

Indianapolis, IN

February 14-16 & 19-23, 2025

**Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo:**

([www.IndySportShow.com](http://www.IndySportShow.com))

Indianapolis, IN

February 21-23, 2025

**2025 Visit Indiana Media Marketplace:**

([www.VisitIndiana.com](http://www.VisitIndiana.com))

Indianapolis, IN

February 27, 2025

**HOW 2025 Annual Conference:**

([www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org](http://www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org))

Clifty Inn, Clifty Falls State Park

Madison, IN

April 4-6, 2025

(Annual meeting on April 5)

**NRA 2025 Annual Meeting and Exhibits:**

([www.nraam.org](http://www.nraam.org))

Atlanta, GA

April 24-27, 2025

**POMA 2025 Conference:**

([www.professionalooutdoormedia.org](http://www.professionalooutdoormedia.org))

Toledo, OH

June 23-25, 2025

HOW members may submit upcoming events, along with dates, locations and other details to the newsletter editor at: [director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org](mailto:director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org) for possible inclusion in future issues of *The Blade*.