

February 2024



FORT WAYNE CHAPTER
NEWS

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA
CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FORT WAYNE CHAPTER



the Fort Wayne Chapter

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Cover & Magazine Article
Photos

By: Karla Wyss

Chapter Photos

By Karla Wyss, Patrick White,
and Zack Walter

All photos, unless noted,
appearing in this issue are the
property of the Fort Wayne
Izaak Walton Chapter.

Members Donna & Jim Wallace Harvest Milkweed

On this cold winter evening, we are interviewing Donna and Jim Wallace, members of the Fort Wayne Chapter.

JAY: Hello, Donna and Hello Jim. What encouraged you to attend a Chapter Board meeting on such a cold winter evening? I'm more accustomed to hearing our Board members complaining about the cold weather and the chilly chapter house. Before you answer, please let us know how long you have been a member.

DONNA: We submitted our application on August 28, 2020, as a senior family membership with gun range privileges. Regarding your second question, we have been asked to attend this month's Board meeting.

JAY: I knew that. (Chuckle) How is it that you became a member? What was it that led you to our chapter?

JIM: I used our first COVID check to buy a pair of pistols (Glock 19 G5 9mm & Glock 44 22 cal), along with all the necessary equipment, ammo, carry permit, plus two full days of gun safety and shooting instruction. The training outfit used the facilities of the Huntington IWLA and they informed me that the Fort Wayne chapter had an excellent Rifle & Pistol range.

JAY: Jim, you told me before this interview began, about you and Donna on our Rifle & Pistol Range. Would you retell that again?

JIM: We both used the gun range from



Fort Wayne Board member, Ron Hessert accepts 430 packets of milkweeds.
Photo by Karla Wyss

August 2020 through 2022. Mostly in late spring to early fall, before winter set in, we hibernated and took it up again as warm weather approached. But after beating me so badly at the target range, Donna stopped attending to save my ego. Thanks Donna! She just got a little bored and hunted the parking lot for interesting fossil rocks.

JAY: So, do you both shoot together a lot?

JIM: Not as much as at first. She will come along and talk to others or read. I try to get to the range about once a week during warmer weather.

JAY: Is there anything else about the chapter amenities that you both like?

DONNA: We have enjoyed the trails west of the chapter house for several years. The gullies dropping down toward the creeks

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of Fort Wayne.

JAY: The deep gullies on our property were formed thousands of years ago by two glaciers. The first glacier covered the entire Midwest, while the second glacier carved the deep gullies that exist today. This was a result of silt carried by the glacier from the gullies to central Indiana, creating today's fertile farmland. When the second glacier melted, the water flowed through a melt tunnel under the ice. As the glacier receded, a tunnel that was transformed into a stream known as Cedar Creek,

JIM: There ya go! Learn something every day.

JAY: Tell us about the other areas on Chapter property that you found milkweed beds.

JIM: This past year we found the pond and meadow to the east. We enjoy the peacefulness there. The wooded trails can easily get one turned around. The meadow is a wonderland of flowers seeming to constantly be changing colors. The stillness of the

Meadowland Area

Walton
Pond

Photo Courtesy of Google Maps

pond with pine trees on the southern side of the lake, is very picturesque. By mid-summer we were feeding the fish bread doughballs. Or as Donna likes to say "breeding them on the inside". Ducks, Loons, Deer, a water turtle, a Great Heron and even a few snakes have put in appearances throughout the entire area of the pond and meadow. We also ran across the remains of a Coot (false duck). Look it up, we had to. Funny looking feet.



Photo By Patrick White

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JAY: Your story has a lot to do with the Monarch Butterfly. What is it that led you to take on this project?

JIM: This is all your fault, Jay. You've had pictures in an earlier edition of "the Chapter NEWS" magazine of butterflies. And I believe it's common knowledge about the decline of all butterflies and other pollinators, but especially the Monarchs. We remember as kids always seeing Monarchs. When you posted the information about needing someone to volunteer to head up the collecting of milkweed to support them; we felt a tug, but did not want to volunteer. Long ago when I was in the military and I learned to never volunteer for anything. However, we decided to take on the challenge anyway.

JAY: So do either of you have a long-time interest in, what is it called Entomology, the study of Insects?

DONNA: Actually, no! Neither of us have studied in the specific field of Entomology; however there has always been an interest in the broader spectrum of all flora and fauna in biology. I grew up wandering around the rolling hills and woods of Virginia collecting tadpoles and snapping turtles and rose to the rank of Tenderfoot in the Boy Scouts; that's about it for me. And I love studying about the animals and some plants in God's creation, with insects being just a smaller part of it.

JIM: Speaking of insects, there is a specific insect that feeds on milkweed plants (It's called a "Milkweed Bug"). If the infestation is too bad, they can kill the plant. The surprising thing is this bug is red-orange and black just like a Monarch. They are harmless to humans and can be left alone or picked off the plant.

JAY: The mature milkweed has a hard banana-shaped shell with a seed pod. When I was a youngster, I thought they looked like fish with bright reddish-brown scales.

JIM: I can't comment on your memory as a kid. The ones we found were fat banana shaped, still green, then turning brown as they dried.

JAY: Don't feel bad. Sometimes I can't remember my memories as a kid!

JAY: These Milkweed patches are very rare due to man's efficiency in eradicating them as a weed. Where did you come across these pods?

JIM: I understand that milkweed is mildly toxic to humans, and it can affect grazing livestock, so farmers have a reason to limit it. The first seed pods we noticed were in the meadow's northeast corner, right next to the marsh water. There were five stalks with a total of 12 pods. We watched these pods for weeks during the fall, waiting for them to exhibit signs of splitting open. Meanwhile, we inquired about other areas where some had said there was milkweed. We finally jumped the gate to the rifle and pistol range to look for the reported stands. When we reached the berm behind the pistol steel target 'house' we finally found a patch of about six by ten feet of thickly growing stalks all bearing



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the crops, we succumbed. We collected what we had previously discovered and began to look elsewhere on the property.

JAY: What was it like.... Collecting the pods?

DONNA: *We started by collecting full pods that had started to open, but the season changed rapidly, and all the pods started to open. On a trip back to the meadow we found most plants had lost their leaves and fluff, (milkweed silk), floating in the air. We realized that the fluff was coming from pods, but the plants, pods, and seeds were smaller than the common milkweed we had already found. With only withered leaves on the stalks, we believe these plants to be butterfly weed, a variant of milkweed.*

JIM: *As autumn progressed, we noticed fluffy material floating on the east and northeast edges of the pond. We collected the remains of the pods and discarded any that we deemed non-viable in the surrounding area.*

DONNA: *Due to encounters with thistle plants and burs, we found it necessary to wear long pants, hiking boots, and gloves. It's worth noting that monarch butterflies only feed on and lay eggs on common milkweed, while other butterflies and pollinators are attracted to butterfly weed.*

JAY: What did you do with them when you got them back home?

DONNA: *The full pods were laid out around the family room to dry further; the fluff and opened pods were put in bags. We spent weeks pulling the tiny seeds away from their silk and placing them on paper coffee filters in pie tins to dry further. The full pods were sometimes easier to handle because you could get a grip on the silk base and manipulate most of the seeds away from the silk. This was a tedious process.*

JAY: That process sounds like a messy process to me. Was it?

JIM: *The silk will float away on the slightest air current; it will also stick to your hands and fingers. Managing the quantity of the silk was a problem. A friend of Donna's recalled collecting milkweed silk to stuff life vests for sailors during WW2.*

JAY: Now, that I had never heard before! It gives a little insight into how much of there was back then!

JAY: What was the next step in preparing the seeds?

Donna: *Once all the seeds were placed on the coffee filters, we let them sit and dry while deciding what to do. Jim wanted to put them all in a paper bag and drop them at the clubhouse. Instead, we ordered a box of paper seed envelopes.*

JIM: *We also delivered some seeds in letter envelopes to Zach at the clubhouse for planting before the ground froze.*

JAY: Describe the drying process for us.

DONNA: *We allowed them to dry for four to eight weeks before packaging.*

JAY: Was it your plan to package these seeds into garden-sized seed packets from the start?

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JOANNA'S FAMILY RESTAURANT

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JIM: No. Absolutely not! As she said, "I would have been very happy putting em' all in a paper bag and dropping them off at the Clubhouse.

JAY: We're indebted to you, Donna. How many seeds did you end up harvesting? Was it a good-sized lot?

JIM: Donna packaged 150 common milkweed and 50 butterfly weed seeds into packets and attached labels. There are 360 packets of common and 70 packets of butterfly. Total 57,500 seeds.

JAY: Get out! You actually counted them?

JIM: Yes, Donna actually hand counted each and every seed that went into a packet.

DONNA: They all have my special touch. Jim just didn't have the patience to handle that task. Most of the packets have a few extra seeds, just in case any were nonviable. Jim watched football more than he packaged. (Laugh)

JAY: Amazing! So what do you think you'll do with them?

JIM: That's why we are here! We will present them to the board of IWLA and suggest that the Chapter offer the seeds FREE through the newsletter and have folks mail a self-

addressed STAMPED return envelope to the club, along with a donation. For the chapter, as a nonprofit, funds are always in short supply. Editor note: We are a 503c3 and donations are tax deductible. (See Nov. and Dec. issues for details.)

JAY: Well, that is certainly commendable. Now that you've become experts, are you looking forward to it again?

JIM: Donna likened it to Mark Twain's story of Tom Sawyer when he talked some kids into whitewashing the fence for fun. I'm looking forward to seeing how the patches are faring next spring and summer. We never had any idea that the blossoms we saw this past summer could be milkweed. Maybe we will assist the next people looking for some fun, whitewashing the fence.

JAY: "We stumbled upon the first chapter patch by chance, while Ron Hessert and his brother Tim were clearing the long grass from the steep sides of our rifle and pistol berms. They were well-protected, and nobody had found them as they were on the backside of the berm. Was it difficult to reach them?"



Photo By Zack Walter



Photo of 1st Chapter Patch by Ron Hessert



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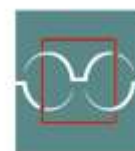


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JIM: Well, the range is only closed two days a week. Who would want to go up there with people shooting at them? The berms are steep, but my knee replacement from 5 years ago handled the job. If Donna and I can, then most people could easily climb them. As a trail, I'd rate it medium to hard.

JAY: Zack, our site manager, broadcast some of last year's harvest on the property by hand. Have you encountered any more patches while hiking our chapter trails?

DONNA: Since milkweed needs a sunny area to grow in, we found patches only in the meadow, the pond's sunny side, the swamp area and the berm.

JAY: Wow! Zack will be tickled pink with that news. Ron and Zack both faced difficulty in propagating this milkweed. One would think that God's plan of wind carrying the seeds on their little parachutes and them falling on top of the ground would make the process easy. Do you know any tricks to make the propagation successful?

JIM: God's plan seems to be to spread a whole bunch of seed just to be sure the species continues. Remember Jesus' parable of the Sower casting seeds – some land on rocks, weeds, paths, and only some on fertile soil. There is a lot of competition out there, so He provided a way to spread them. He also had a backup plan. Once planted they also spread through their root systems. And then He used us.

JAY: Tell me why you would spend so many hours breaking down this pile of thousands of seeds into garden packets. What do you have in mind?

JIM: Credit to Billy Joel: "You may be right I may be crazy Oh, but it just may be a lunatic you're looking for..."

JAY: Wow! From his recording of, "You may be crazy", recorded in 1980." (EDITOR'S NOTE: Actually, I had to look that up after I got home.)

JIM: Yep

JAY: I've got to tell you, Donna, and you, Jim... you are an inspiration, and I hope that when our readers read this article, I hope that they will become as enthralled as you two are. I can see that our Board meeting is about to start. Do you have any parting thoughts to share with us?

JIM: Hey, this would be a great project for the Boy Scouts to earn a merit badge. The board could invite them to join in.

JAY: Great idea!

JAY: Thank you, Guys! This has truly been an uplifting experience. You have given our members, families, and friends reading this a great opportunity to join this crusade to save the Monarch.

JIM: Thanks' Jay. It was our pleasure

DONNA: Thank you, Jay.

To Get Your FREE Milkweed Seeds See Page 7 For Ordering Information!

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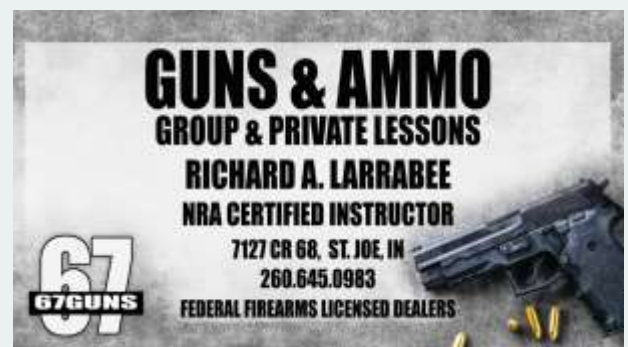
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We could easily alter the lyrics of Pete Seeger's 1950's melody to lament the virtual disappearance of the Monarch butterfly. The masses of butterflies that were once described as "the personification of happiness" have experienced over an 80% decline in their population during the brief period since the 1990's.

In another section of this publication you can read the inspiring story of how two of our members, Jim and Donna Wallace, took the personal initiative to harvest milkweed seeds from growth patches located on our Chapter property. As you may know, milkweed is essential in the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly, but has been nearly eradicated by the overuse of weed and vegetation killer.

Through the Wallace's efforts we now have the unique opportunity to make an impact in the regeneration of the Monarch population, by obtaining seeds and planting them in patches at our home or other available properties.

The seeds have been separated from the pods and packaged in lots of 30, with preparation and planting instructions included. They are available to you, free of charge, by mailing a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: **Milkweed Seed Offer, 17100 Griffin Road, Huntertown, IN. 46748**

Optionally, you may include a donation that will be used toward the planned renovation of the east room of the Chapterhouse.



ORDERING INFO FOR FREE MILKWEED SEEDS



A poem and graphics by Donna from book titled "Through a Childs Eyes" copyrighted in 1983 and registered with the Library of Congress.

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Donna Wallace



CHAPTER IMPROVES COMMUNICATION

The Chapter is thrilled that we are now using Mailchimp for communication for members and New Magazine Subscribers. It was always a hassle to send out the News Magazine in multiple batches, and were never sure all our subscribers received our Magazine. With Mailchimp, we can all receive the Magazine in one step, ensuring that everyone has access to all the amazing content within.

But what is even more exciting is the opportunity to improve our communication with members. With Mailchimp, we can now send out notices for upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and other important information without fear of being overlooked or ignored. We can now be certain that everyone has access to all the information they need to get involved and stay engaged with chapter activities.

Mailchimp's customizable features have also been a game-changer for our chapter. We can now create beautiful emails that are optimized for engagement and branded to our chapter's unique style. Overall, Mailchimp has revolutionized the way we communicate with members and subscribers. Our chapter is now better able to streamline our Magazine distribution, connect with members and volunteers, and track the success of our communication efforts. We are excited to see how this platform will continue to help us grow and evolve as a chapter in the future.

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A Letter From Our Chapter President



Izaak Walton League of America - Fort Wayne

17100 Griffin Rd
Huntertown, IN

As we begin a new year, we eagerly anticipate the arrival of spring, especially for those of us with aging bones. In this edition, we showcase the remarkable work of Jim and Donna Wallace, who have been collecting milkweed seed from the expanding patches on our chapter grounds.

During our November-December fund drive, we raised \$1,500, with \$500 being donated to our Youth Trap Squad and the remaining \$1,000 going towards renovating our Chapter Meeting area. In conjunction with the \$2,000 we received in 2023, we now have \$3,000 to refurbish the meeting room. This is a much-needed upgrade for member meetings and rental opportunities. It's never too late to donate, and you can support our meeting room fund drive by sending your contribution to our treasurer at 1700 Griffith Road, Huntertown, IN.

Our Chapter Board convened on January 6th to create our 2024 budget and plan events for the year ahead. It may surprise you, but it costs approximately \$50,000 each year to keep the chapter doors open, funded by your dues, Rifle & Pistol Range Fees, our Open-to-Public Trap & Skeet, and now our 3D Archery events.

This year is the 100th anniversary of our chapter, and we'll celebrate with an open house on June 22nd. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information as planning details are finalized.

We're searching for someone to take on the role of Secretary, which involves taking notes of the monthly Board meetings of the Chapter. If you're interested, send an email to our Nominations Chair, Mary Ann James, at email address majamessecond@yahoo.com

Our chapter website is undergoing a much-needed makeover, and we're confident that you'll be pleased with the new design once it's unveiled.

You've likely seen the business ads in the right-hand column of our FW Chapter NEWS. You might not know that a 12-month \$150 subscription includes posting a 12x24 poster ad on our advertising wall at our chapter Rifle & Pistol Range. Details for becoming a subscriber appear every month in our NEWS magazine.

Speaking of that, our chapter has a unique digital magazine published monthly and distributed via Mail-Chimp marketing software, enabling us to send timely bulletins to our membership and ever-growing list of subscribers nationwide.

Jay Butler

Jay L. Butler
President, Fort Wayne Chapter—IWLA

Looking Back At History of FW Chapter “The Story of Tom & Jane”

As we continue to celebrate the 100th Anniversary year of the Fort Wayne Izaak Walton Chapter, we will publish an article every month that delves into our chapter’s history. This is the second in a series of articles, and each may cover a single topic or a mix of subjects and events. This article will highlight the contributions of two of our chapter’s most illustrious members and leaders, Tom and Jane Dustin.

The Dustin’s joined the Fort Wayne Izaak Walton chapter in 1960 and co-founded the Acres Land Trust in the same year. Two years later, Tom became the Vice President of the Fort Wayne Chapter. They held various positions on the chapter Board and the Boards of the Indiana Division and Izaak Walton headquarters. Tom Dustin was the first Executive Secretary of the National organization. Tom and Jane Dustin lived on their property adjoining ours to the west and gave it to the founding of Acres Land Trust. Today, Acres is headquartered in the home of its founders, the Dustin’s.

Many will be surprised to learn that our property line adjoins their land. This is mainly due to numerous face lots being sold on Chapman Road. The properties of IWLA and Acres come together behind these lots and continue south across Cedar Creek, one of only two designated Scenic Streams registered in the State of Indiana.

Many people are unaware that the Dustin’s were part of the Fort Wayne Izaak Walton Chapter and accomplished significant conservation work in Fort Wayne and throughout Indiana.

This historical information can only be found in the dusty archives of organizations like our chapter, and the public has all but forgotten this knowledge. However, a chapter in a book called "Eternal Vigilance," written by Steven Higgs, tells the story of Tom's conservation efforts. In the opening paragraph, Steven speaks of people reminiscing about Tom, describing him as *“the grand old man of saving Indiana Rivers”*,

while others saw him as a *“Pain in the Neck”* due to his success in preserving scenic properties across the Hoosier state. Many of the river properties are now designated as Nature Preserves or Indiana State Parks, thanks to Tom’s conservation and the passing of the Indiana Nature Preserves Act in 1967. Tom fought hard for this act, which aimed to provide lifelong protection to significant natural areas in the state. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) describes these preserves as *“Living museums, protecting natural resources that contain a record of Indiana’s original natural character”*. According to the IDNR, an Indiana preserve must have unique flora or fauna or biotic, geological, scenic, or paleontological features with scientific or educational value. Cedar Creek preserves have all of these

Excerpt From Indiana Division Publication

Indiana’s Wabash River reaches from its Ohio River junction in the southwest to the city limits of Fort Wayne in the northeast where it ends at the continental divide between the Gulf of Mexico and the Great Lakes/Atlantic Ocean drainage via the Maumee River. In the 1830s, the river and adjoining channels were excavated to create the Wabash-Erie canal, enabling barge transit from the Ohio to Lake Erie, after a channel at Fort Wayne. By the early 1840s, the cost of the canal had bankrupted Indiana and produced its Constitutional amendment prohibiting state indebtedness, which stands to this day. But about every 10 years, the canal arises again like the Phoenix bird from its own ashes; and the Corps of Engineers again wastes a few million dollars in “feasibility studies” for digging a new one. The mid-1960s was the most recent major political attempt to resurrect the canal—this time with routes to both Lake Michigan and Lake Erie. The Wabash has dozens of tributaries along its route, some of which are the crown jewels of Indiana’s streams. The Indiana Izaak Walton League led the campaign to junk this plan, which had been supported by a few notorious Congressional pork barrelers, chambers of commerce, coal shipping interests and other bulk commodities.

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characteristics.

The Girl Scout Camp, Acres Land Trust, and the Fort Wayne Izaak Walton Chapter all have significant acreage under the protection of this act and are a part of the 590 protected Nature Preserves in Indiana. The Fort Wayne Chapter gained ours through the philanthropic generosity of the Rodenbeck family purchasing this land and donating it to our chapter on the provision that we make them a State Nature Preserve. Probably 90% of our Chapter property is dedicated Forest Preserve, with strong provisions limiting what can be done with and on it. In a later 2024 issue of this publication, the story of Jane protecting our Cedar Creek preserves from all comers, including our Chapter, will be told.

Tom was the editor of the State news bulletin called "The Hoosier Waltonian" from 1964 to 1982. He was Division President in the mid-sixties and Executive Secretary of the League from 1969 to 1980. If you can find old copies of the Hoosier Waltonian, they can provide valuable information about this couple. Having served as the editor of that same publication, I was unaware of the very large shoes I was filling, until I started researching these articles.

1964 was the year that Tom and Jane were recognized as the "Citizens of the Year" by the Journal Gazette. Even today, the Indiana Division of Izaak Walton acknowledges Jane's work to ensure the nation's clean water by naming an award after her. Tom and Jane received the League's highest honor, the Founder's Award.

For years, with every heavy rainfall, Fort Wayne has dumped raw sewage into the Maumee River for almost sixty years. This was causing great harm to the environment, and a group of individuals, with Tom and Jane taking a leading role, actively participated in environmental activism to raise awareness about this issue.

After a heavy rainstorm, it was not unusual to see them in a rowboat, checking the sewer outflow pipes, dumping both street runoff and raw sewage into the Maumee, a practice begun with large-scale use of motor vehicles and indoor plumbing at about the same time.

It was not until August 2018 that a multi-million-dollar sewer project was launched to stop this practice. The project involved constructing a state-of-the-art sewage retention system 200 feet beneath the city using a bor-

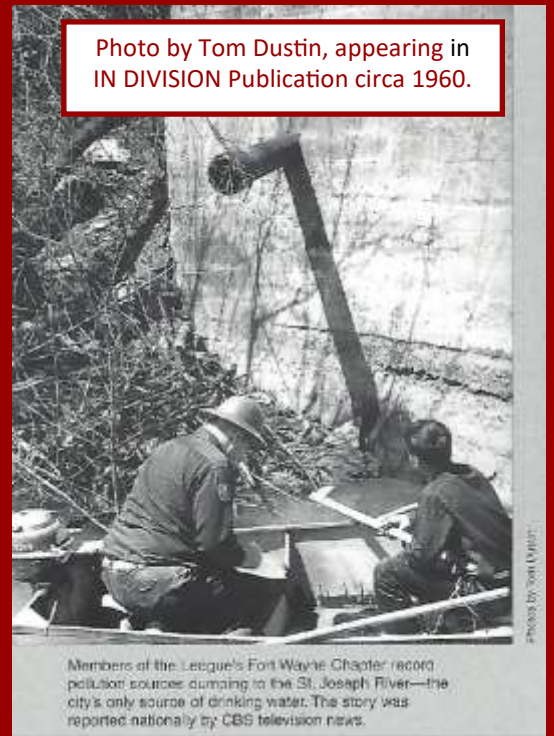
ing machine nicknamed "MommaJo".

Jim Sweeney, one of today's legends within IWLA, had this to say about having been mentored by the Dustin's: *"I first started attending Indiana Division meetings around 1992. We had two-day meetings every quarter, and the reason for that is that the Division had the horsepower to use all that time efficiently. There were Ikes from all over the state that were doing excellent conservation work, and they all coordinated with the Division and were able to generate a lot of calls and letters for the issues of the day.*

Among the most impressive of those Ikes were Tom and Jane Dustin. Jane was an incredibly knowledgeable advocate for clean water, and Tom was the grand old man of the conservation movement in all of Indiana. He was committed to public lands, forests, and talking to elected officials. He played a large role in creating the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and adopting the Indiana Nature Preserves Act. Tom was an experienced journalist and mentored me in using the press to advertise issues and move elected officials to do what we wanted.

The Dustin's and others were instrumental in creating the Acres Land Trust, the biggest and one of the first local land trusts in Indiana. I miss all those old Ikes. They taught me a lot and had a serious commitment to the mission of the Izaak Walton League, to conserve our "soils, air, woods, waters, and wildlife."

Photo by Tom Dustin, appearing in IN DIVISION Publication circa 1960.



Members of the League's Fort Wayne Chapter record pollution sources dumping into the St. Joseph River—the city's only source of drinking water. The story was reported nationally by CBS television news.

TIPS ON PLANTING MILKWEED

There are few insects more iconic or eye-catching than the monarch butterfly. We can attribute the existence of these beauties to their host plant: milkweed. Native to North America, milkweed comes in a wide variety of species and colors it's the perfect addition to any landscaping project.

Plant your milkweed in the ground for best results; these bushy perennials are happiest with their feet firmly rooted. Milkweed plants should be planted between 18 and 24 inches apart and no deeper than the existing soil line of their original containers. Once transplanted, water thoroughly every day for two weeks.

Milkweed seeds can be planted in either fall or spring. You will find instructions for both methods below. Before planting, you should consider where you would like for the plants to grow. Common milkweed plants can reach about five feet in height, so if you are planting them in an existing garden, you will want to plant them in the back or in the center, if you have a garden that can be accessed from all sides. These plants will spread under the soil after they are established, so if you don't want them spreading throughout your garden, you can put a barrier around them or transplant new plants to another location. Planting them along a fence or in a corner of your yard may work well for you. The location should receive full sunlight nearly all day in summer. These plants will not bloom for the first couple of years so don't feel that there is something wrong when flowers don't appear in that time period. You will still be helping monarchs at this point, as the larvae can feast upon the leaves. Common milkweed will grow in nearly any type of soil but should not be planted in soil

that remains wet for long periods of time.

Fall Planting - Fall is the best time for planting milkweed seeds. The seeds won't germinate until spring because they require natural freezing and thawing to soften the seed coat so that the embryo plant can grow. This process stops seedlings from emerging in the fall and being killed by winter cold. You can plant the seeds from September 1 up until the soil freezes. Prepare your soil by removing existing vegetation, if present, and loosen soil with a rake. You may want to add some compost, if you have any available. Scatter the seeds and use your rake to gently work them into the soil. They will come up in spring when conditions are right for them to grow.

Spring Planting - Spring planting takes a little more work because you will need to mimic the natural freezing and thawing cycle. At least six weeks before you are going to plant the seeds in spring, obtain two paper towels, wet them and then wring out excess water. Place one of the paper towels inside a one-gallon, zip-close plastic bag. Scatter the milkweed seeds over this paper towel. Cover the seeds with the second damp paper towel. Zip the plastic bag closed and place it flat in your refrigerator. Leave it undisturbed for at least six weeks. When you are ready to plant, prepare the soil by removing existing vegetation, if present, and loosen soil with a rake. You may want to add some compost, if you have any available. Scatter the seeds and use your rake to gently work them into the soil. When they come up, keep the soil moist until the plants are well established.

**SPRING
PLANTING TAKES A
LITTLE MORE WORK
BECAUSE YOU WILL
HAVE TO MIMIC THE
WINTER
FREEZING AND
THAWING CYCLE.**

Rifle & Pistol Ranges

Snow Closings Announced By Email

Summer: 10:30AM—7:30PM

Winter: 10:00AM—5:00PM

Rifle & Pistol Ranges

Sundays 9:00—1:00PM

TRAP FEES INCREASE \$1.00 PER ROUND
BEGINNING JANUARY 2024

Youth Trap Team Season About To Start

Hey there! Did you know that Izaak Walton has a youth shooting team? We're thrilled to begin practicing in the upcoming spring season (March/April). Our team competes on both state and national levels. This season, we are implementing a new Dry Fire System during our practices. It's a simulated shooting situation that helps us practice without using ammo. We're really excited about it!

**Interested? Contact John (260-437-6805)
or Ally Kurtz (260-431-3118) for more
information.**



**OH NO!!! I forgot to include
the range fee with my
renewal dues payment!!**

Not a problem. Pay it at the range the next
time you go. The RSO will be happy to help you
out.

**SOUND
OFF!** 

Tell us your thoughts about our
“*FW Chapter NEWS*” or any
other Chapter related topic.

Email: jaybutler1940@gmail.com



Jay Butler
Managing
Editor

the Fort Wayne Chapter

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Fort Wayne Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America

News



GIVE YOUR BUSINESS CARD MORE REACH.

- 12X24" Reproduction on our FRIENDS OF FW CHAPTER WALL in our Chapter House.
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2.9x1.8" Standard Business Card Sizer
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the Fort Wayne Chapter

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2024 Membership Renewal Form

Please fill in the following information and determine the appropriate remittal amount from the table below. Place this completed form and your payment into an envelope and mail to: Fort Wayne Chapter, IWLA, Membership Director, 2709 Bearberry Ct., Fort Wayne, IN 46818.

Name: _____ Member No. _____

Email address: _____

Type of Membership: _____ Total Dues: _____

If you wish to purchase range privileges—add \$40.00 R/P: _____

Total enclosed: _____

Please list any changes from your previous membership (type, address, names, etc.) _____

Current dues distribution

Type	National	Ind/Division	FW Chapter	Total Dues	% to Chapter	Range Fee
Family	\$75.00	\$15.00	\$53.00	\$143.00	37%	\$40.00*
Senior Family	\$75.00	\$8.00	\$53.00	\$136.00	38.9%	\$40.00*
Individual	\$50.00	\$10.00	\$42.00	\$102.00	41%	\$40.00*
Senior	\$50.00	\$8.00	\$34.00	\$92.00	37%	\$40.00*
Student	\$25.00	\$8.00	\$29.00	\$62.00	47%	\$40.00*

* To use the rifle/pistol ranges you must purchase range privileges. **If you choose to purchase range privileges, please remit the "Total Dues" amount plus the \$40.00 range fee.** Range fees are wholly retained by the Chapter and are necessary to help offset the operating and maintenance expenses that are specifically associated with the ranges.

**Thank you for your continued support
of our Chapter**