

May 2023 Issue

“MR. B”



922

202

Century of Conservation Leaders

Fort Wayne Chapter News

Izaak Walton League of America
The Digital Magazine Of The Fort Wayne Chapter

the Fort Wayne Chapter

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Cover Photo and Lead
Article

By Patrick J. White.

Nature Photos Provided by
Kevin Sheehan.

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Chapter.

INTERVIEWING A POWER PLAYER

In 2020, I attended my first RSO meeting as a new MOT (Member of the Tribe). I didn't know anyone back then, so I decided to take digital photos of the event in hopes the editor of the newsletter would publish them. As I circulated among the

many RSO's taking individual shots, one person stood out.

I didn't know who he was, but many of the RSO's flocked to him for what I perceived as seeking his counsel. I figured he was some type of senior Guru or Yoda.



A few weeks later, I actually met Mr. Jay Butler during an RSO change over. I don't know why, but I handed him a copy of my Resume like I was interviewing for a job. He reviewed it and started asking me questions just like he was considering hiring me. And while I never got a paying position, he became my friend, mentor, and Editor-in-Chief of the new monthly digital magazine. After working with him as his photographer (i.e. Jimmy Olsen) for a couple of years, I decided he deserved to grace the cover and an in-depth arti-

cle about his past life at International Harvester and his years as a power-player in Izaak Walton League.

Enjoy it because getting Mr. B. to agree to this interview was like hatching a giant eagle's egg. Slow and tedious.

PJW: Good morning Boss. Thank you for finally sitting down with me for this

Interview.
JLB: Morning! It is a pleasure to be with you, but

I will say, "It's a little uncomfortable being on this side of the interview table."

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In all honesty, I'd rather be shooting. into personnel and had them pull my



application from the bottom of the stack to near the top.

PJW: What was your 1st job?

JLB: I hired in as a floor sweeper, making \$18.00 dollars a day, and I knocked around for the next ten years on various UAW classifications,

PJW: Understood! Been there and done that. I'll make this as painless as possible.

JLB: Uh-huh! I've heard some of your interviews made back in the days that you were a radio personality on WOWO.

PJW: Jay, long before you became involved in Izaak Walton, you were an executive at International Harvester (IH), tell me about that.

JLB: Patrick, I was born and raised in Springfield, Ohio. My Dad was a forty-one-year UAW employee of Harvester and I sort of followed in his footsteps soon after graduating from High School.

PJW: So, you followed the old man. Any problems getting on the payroll of IH?

JLB: Nope. Back in the day, nepotism was a way of life and Dad was a Lodge Brother of the Plant Manager, and after a chat, he simply walked

including that of a union steward, finally migrating into the inspection department where my Dad had spent so many years. By the way, I have two photos that put that into perspective: The first is of me at about eight years and my Dad in the IH farm implement tent at the Ohio State Fair. And the second is him standing with the Quality Manager, the Inspection Superintendent, myself as General Forman together on the day of his retirement.

PJW: And how did you get into management?

JLB: This was back in the time of Vietnam, and we were heavy into building military trucks and after passing our normal inspection, the military trucks had to be grouped in lots of 50 or so trucks by military service for a government inspection. Problem was that there were two different government agencies doing the inspection and my UAW job was

to list the trucks waiting inspection and record the truck VIN number and military door number for presentation to the government. Problems developed when U.S. Army trucks to be inspected by one government agency were mixed in with the other, and the entire group of trucks were rejected and the government inspectors were severely aggravated and so was IH because we soon ran out of space for three or four groups of 50 trucks that quickly began to pile up in the shipping area. I began to understand the system, and walked in to the IH shipping clerks office and asked for a copy of his master list of Government orders by approving agency and began to build myself a three-ring notebook. This made the sorting manageable and suddenly the log jam was broken and a young man named Butler suddenly became known within IH management. And that ultimately led to an offer in management. Looks very simple today, but back then timing was everything.

PJW: Any problems making the transition?

JLB: Several. First, the UAW fellows that I worked with were great friends, but the day that I walked in wearing the management uniform of the day; a white shirt and black tie, that all changed, because I had gone over to the "dark side."

Another was that we had two different classes of newly hired

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Management, those with a college degree and those “mustangers” who were promoted as “Works Management.” One first group was slated for continuing advancement and the other often remained stationary for the rest of their managerial career.

PJW: Sounds like a serious career impediment.

JLB: That’s because it was! But I found that the college grads of the day often liked to work just 40 hours per week and that I could take advantage of that by working harder and longer than they did. As I found that I could overcome the disadvantage of not having a degree, I found myself being fast tracked, receiving promotions very quickly.

And that led to some unusual situations. I found myself not only in charge of departments where I had fairly recently been a UAW employee, I also found myself managing many of the supervisors that I had worked for a short time earlier. And because I was on the fast track, sometimes skipping a management level, I found myself passing out paychecks to my employees, both union and management, that were larger than mine. This happened because I was moving from position to position, sometimes missing annual salary increases and getting only the new management salary increase. This lasted for a number of years as I found myself moving from department to depart-

ment and plant to plant, a thing that was sometimes rough on my family.

My credo became to continue my education over the years of management. I’ve attended night classes at Wittenberg University, University of Dayton, Central Michigan, Purdue, and Indiana University; plus taking every computer course that ever popped up, always taking courses that would have immediate impact on my current managerial position, and importantly the next one that I saw on the horizon. I took great pride in my successes, and it was not until much later in life that I learned that those achievements were not a result of my personal effort, but rather gained through the Grace of God.

PJW: You spoke of family a moment or two ago; tell us something about yours.

JLB: As I said, I was born in Ohio, the youngest of four Brothers. I am the last one left, having lost my younger brother to Covid-19. My two older brothers served in WW II and were both Sergeants. My folks had to sign for me in my senior year of High School for me to join the Ohio Air National Guard and I served, including a year and a half active duty during the Berlin and Cuban crisis.

I married my high school sweetheart and we had fifty-seven years together before I lost her. She gave me three wonderful children; Chris the oldest,

followed by two beautiful girls, Renee, and Melissa. Gee Bee (GB = Garnette Butler) was a nurse and was the best thing that ever happened to me. During those years that I was devoting almost every waking hour working my way up the corporate ladder she pretty much took care of raising the kids and our home, while working her own way up to office manager of several different medical practices giving up each position as my work moved us from location to location.

We have six wonderful grandchildren, one boy and five girls. One of the girls, Bremen, is a third generation IWLA member and is making a name for herself as a nationally ranked small bore and air rifle shooter.



When I was desperately ill, Gee Bee cared for me for over a year and never complained. When I lost her, I lost more than I can ever put into words, and never a day goes by

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without my thinking about her and looking forward to the day when I will see her again. I want to say also, it was my love of our IWLA organization that has been the thing that has kept me going since that loss, and for that I'll always be grateful to you and others who assist in maintaining what has been created.

PJW: When did you join the IWLA?

JLB: I joined in 2010 or 2011 after retiring in Chicago and returning to Fort Wayne. I had reached my career azimuth, becoming a regional manager in sales, with 118 truck dealers in ten states and after retiring, I was looking for something that would allow me to focus on giving something back in the way of service and thanks for my God given success in life.

Son Chris and I were on a first time visit to our chapter rifle and pistol range one day and as many of us do, entered into a conversation that led to my joining the chapter and the Board of Directors in the same breath-taking moment. Since then, I have been serving our members as a Board member continuously, with the exception of a year and a half.

PJW: How many different positions have you served as a member of Izaak Walton and which one stands out in your mind?

JLB: I've been Treasurer, Secretary, Executive Secretary, Vice President and Editor of the local FW Chapter

newsletter and then in the same capacity for our FW Chapter NEWS. I've served as Regional Vice President for the Indiana Division, and as Editor of the Indiana Waltonian, a precursor to our chapters NEWS magazine and on the National IWLA Board.

As to which one stands out, I'm not sure. Each one has its own unique rewards. Serving the chapter has given the best opportunity to see effort equaling result. Serving the Division has been rewarding as I've been able to pass on something of a broader scope, and serving as a National Director has been a very enjoyable experience in meeting members from across the country.

PJW: What is harder to manage; corporate or volunteer organizations?

JLB: Each has its own challenges. The main difference is in volunteer organizations the member as a volunteer is not dependent on the job for a living. They can walk at any time, and often do. The closest thing to this in corporate is managing independent dealers who are much the same. Otherwise, management has the power of position to threaten the future of employees at all levels.

PJW: Have you ever experienced the downs as well as the ups in corporate management?

JLB: Certainly! Poor job performance is only one factor that

can influence the "downers". To name a couple, not having a good relationship with your boss is one, and a RIF (Reduction in Force) is another. I have experienced each of these. It was only when I decided that "If this reduced managerial level is where I'm gonna spend the rest of my career, I'm gonna be the best (job name) in the company." And with that came redemption and I recovered and again advanced in both incidences.

PJW: Have you accomplished everything in life you wanted, or is there still something out there you need to accomplish?

JLB: Hm-m-m. I think the answer is both yes and no. I have seen our Fort Wayne Chapter grow from the 5th or 6th largest chapter into the second largest in the state. And I have watched the same chapter lose almost everything gained in Board leadership in a little over a year, thus pointing out how fragile leadership continuity is in a volunteer organization. Thankfully, I have also seen our current Board pulling together, to bring us once again into a cohesive managerial unit, a very difficult thing in a volunteer organization. As I ready myself to pass the baton on to others, it is this fragility is troublesome, but that is life.

Maybe a goal is to outshoot you on the rifle range.

PJW: On a good day, Yoda, On a

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Good day! I agree with your comments on fragility. Certainly, you have done your part. Now it will be

up to us. Mr. B., thank you for letting me do a version of the old television program "This Is Your

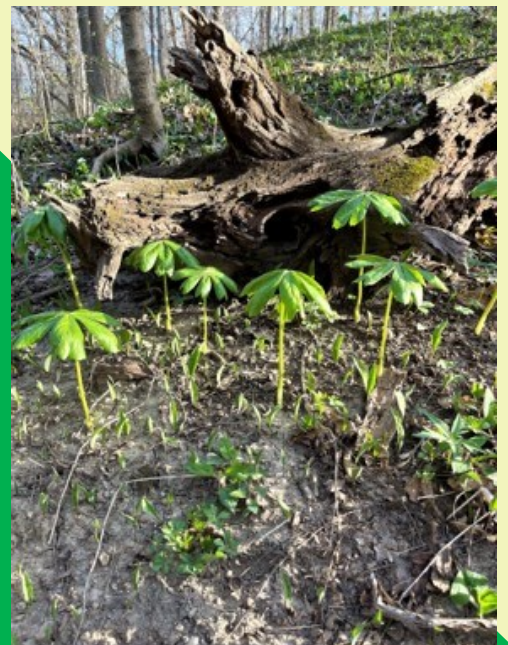
Life."

JLB: Thank you Patrick. It has been a privilege.

SPRING ARRIVES AT THE FT. WAYNE CHAPTER AND NATURE COMES ALIVE!



Photos By Member Kevin Sheehan



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FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

PATRICK J. WHITE, Major USAF Retired

Traditionally, June is the most popular month for weddings in America and possibly the rest of the planet. I'm guessing about the rest of the planet, but I think I'm correct.

However, next month our Chapter is hosting a very special event which I'm hoping you will volunteer to support. It's the annual Izaak Walton State Convention. We haven't hosted this event in several years for reasons that have never been fully explained. The main reason was that some of our former elected officials didn't think the Fort had anything to offer those visiting us from around the Hoosier state. Maybe years ago, this was correct, but not today. Fort Wayne has developed into a vibrant destination for people from miles around and we have a great story to tell.

There are many new attractions I could mention, but this column would become lengthy and difficult to stuff into the space that my editor allows me to utilize. So, let's just say that our community has changed for the better over the years and our being awarded the Izaak Walton State Convention is a honor to be cherished.

The convention begins on Friday, June 3rd when chapter officials from around the state will congregate at our Chapter headquarters on Griffin Road. We estimate that between 40 and 50 Officers, Board Members and Chapter Delegates will be in attendance from throughout the state. Our plan is to utilize the cluster of hotels at the intersection of I-69 and Dupont Road to house the officials and their spouses. The convention committee has developed a full slate of activities interspersed in the traditional business meeting that will take place from Friday afternoon and the closing ceremonies on Sunday June 5th.

One of the highlights of the convention will be the primary guest speaker at the convention on Saturday afternoon after our luncheon. I'm honored to announce that **Mayor Tom Henry** has consented to be our Keynote speaker at this year's convention. He will be discussing all the positive changes that have occurred since the last time Fort Wayne was selected for their State Convention. At an event like this, the local media will probably attend so it's important for all of our Chapter members to look their best as they may appear on the news.

This convention is also important in another way you may be unaware of. The National Convention of the Izaak Walton League of America in 2023 is being held in Lincoln, Nebraska and at that event, the attendees will select the city scheduled for a future National Convention. There is a good possibility that we may be throwing our hat in the ring to host an upcoming annual convention date and if so, an IWLA National Convention could be coming to the Summit City.

Therefore, I'm requesting all members of the Fort Wayne Chapter to do their best to attend part or all the upcoming convention events to demonstrate that our city is worthy of hosting a National Convention down the road. Let's put Fort Wayne on the Izaak Walton map.



President—Fort Wayne Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America

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LOSING \$25M for CONSERVATION

Ask for Re-funding of the Harrison Conservation Trust

First they shaved off \$10 million of the \$25 million for the Harrison Land Conservation Trust, now they want to throw it ALL away...

This week, the Indiana Senate Republicans shared their version of the State Budget.

We're dismayed to see that all of the additional funding for land conservation has been eliminated from this version of the budget, despite the many positive conversations we had with members of the Senate.

USE YOUR ADDRESS TO FIND YOUR STATE SENATOR HERE

<https://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/>

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR TODAY

Contact your state senator and state representative and urge them to support these vitally important conservation appropriations contained in the Governor's budget, along with increased funding for Clean Water Indiana and the Lake and River Enhancement Fund.

YOUR CORRESPONDENCE MIGHT BE AS SIMPLE AS THIS:

Senator, I'm writing about the Harrison Conservation Trust Fund. Please see that HB 1001 restores the full \$25 million fund for land conservation; KEEP the Harrison land conservation fund in the native: I urge you to support and maintain the \$25 million that was poised to be allocated for conservation of American land through the President state budget.

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Wednesday Night Euchre Discontinued



Thank you to all those who participated in our Wednesday night euchre tournaments. The consensus of those in attendance in April was to discontinue the game during the summer months. As a result, we will not be playing May - September, but look forward to resuming in October. Have a great summer!

HELP!! RANGE SAFETY OFFICERS NEEDED

Additional RSO's are needed to maintain the current schedule of open hours and days of our rifle and pistol ranges. If you can commit to at least 1, or preferably 2, four-hour shifts per month contact our Range Manager, Karla Wyss (marw4@frontier.com), or our Chief Range Safety Officer, James Ramsey (jrsr7@frontier.com) to sign up

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JUNE 25TH

SEPT 24TH

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THE FORT WAYNE CHAPTER WELCOMES OUR NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN MAY

- ◇ **Todd Chiddister**
- ◇ **Dawn Fair**
- ◇ **James Hudson**
- ◇ **James Reinhart**
- ◇ **Chett Kittle**
- ◇ **James Olds**

WELCOME!



Meet Deb Warnick , our Range Safety Officer Scheduler. She was a Registered Nurse before retiring. Today, she dotes over her Grandkids, and in her spare moments keeps our Rifle and Pistol Ranges running smoothly . Many have said of her: "The best Scheduling Officer that we've Ever Had!"

IWLA SPRING MEMBERS MEETING

MAY 13 @ 6PM

VOTE FOR NEW OFFICERS



13

MAY

6PM

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE OUR NEWS MAGAZINE, SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO crehinger@gmail.com (Public Welcome)

A fresh chance to pass RAWA

Help support wildlife by voicing your opinion of RAWA

Reprinted By Permission Of The Porter County Chapter Indiana Division IWLA

Take action now: No more delay on protecting at-risk species

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) is a bipartisan plan that lays out a common-sense strategy for protecting at-risk species before they become endangered. Last year, RAWA was left out of must-pass legislation in the closing hours of the Congressional session. But now, RAWA is already back in the new session!

By building momentum now, we can finally make RAWA the law of the land – and we can finally ensure that struggling species get the help they need. A staggering one-third of America's native fish and wildlife are at risk of becoming endangered.

[TAKE ACTION](#)

12,000 species in the United States are in serious decline. If RAWA passes, state agencies – agencies with proven track records of success in species conservation and recovery – will have the resources they need to protect these plants and animals from becoming endangered.

Annette, popular bipartisan legislation can come back year after year, but declining species are only getting deeper into trouble. Please take action right now to secure a truly historic conservation victory and make 2023 the year we start turning things around for beloved wildlife like bison, brook trout and golden eagles.

[TAKE ACTION](#)

Your correspondence might be as simple as this:

I support the **The Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA)**. Today, one third of all wildlife species in the United States are at increased risk of extinction. All types of wildlife across the country are declining, in many cases dramatically. Please be a voice for the flora and fauna of NW Indiana and vote YES for RAWA. Thank you.

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I TRIED IT

At NRA Annual Show—Indy 2023

By Patrick J. White

Although I've been a card-carrying member of the NRA for many years, I've never attended one of their national events. Time, expense, travel, and general non-interest have been my excuse in the past, but that excuse held no water when the annual NRA show was held at the Indianapolis Civic Center this past April.

Fort Wayne is only a couple of hours from Indy and the drive down I-69 is easy except for the continual construction, but it was a journey I was willing to take because I had an Ace in my back-pocket. I have a daughter who's a police detective down there and she happens to live in Noblesville, and thus I had a place to stay for a few days before and after the show. Plus, she's an excellent hostess and cook.

If you're planning on attending one of these types of shows, I strongly suggest you do some pre-show homework. I downloaded a map of downtown parking and a floorplan of the Civic Center that showed all the different companies and the locations of their display booths. Some were big, but most were medium to small, and I knew where every manufacturer was that I wanted to visit. My plan was ready to execute on D-Day and H-hour.

I was in luck because my daughter drove me to the Civic Center and dropped me off at the entrance at 9am sharp. I entered the massive hall and used a map provided by the NRA at the entrance to find the booths that interested me. I was especially interested in locating the booths with the celebrities I see on YouTube videos discussing all types of firearms. I found them quickly and easily thanks to my pre-planning.

The first celeb I saw was "22 Plinkster" at the Franklin Armory booth, then Lena Miculek and her father Jerry Miculek at another major firearm manufacturer's booth. The only one I failed to find because their schedules were almost identical was "Scooth 00" who is also well known to fans of YouTube videos about firearms. If "Hickock 45" had made an appearance, I didn't know about it.

I should mention that the show area covers over 14-acres and the first day crowd was enormous because that afternoon, the roster of speakers who support the NRA was the largest I've even seen. Politicians were too numerous to count, but perhaps the biggest draw was the former President Donald Trump who spoke after everyone else. He was warmly welcomed and spoke for over an hour.

So, was it worth the time and effort? Yes, it was. I got to see some new products (EAA Grison .380 pistol), talked to some celebrities, enjoyed a hot dog, chips and ice water for \$17 and suffered some sore feet. But, if it comes to Indy again in the future, I'll be there.



Coal Ash containment is serious!

REMOVE Coal Ash from HB 1623

Reprinted By Permission Of The Porter County Chapter Indiana Division IWLA

What is Coal Ash?

Coal ash, a catchall term for several kinds of waste left over at power plants that burn coal, typically contains a number of substances harmful to human health—arsenic, chromium, lead, and mercury among them. Coal ash is incredibly dangerous.

Support the amendment to remove coal ash from HB 1623

The Indiana legislature has a bill, HB 1623, that would prohibit Indiana from finding solutions for coal ash that fit our state's needs. It would block our state agency from making any requirements that aren't already in the federal coal ash rule, even though the federal rule has gaps.

To give just one example, Indiana coal ash landfills currently have to provide financial assurance that they have the means to do any necessary cleanups, just like our municipal landfills do. The federal coal ash rule doesn't require financial assurance, so this bill would remove that requirement for coal ash.

WRITE YOUR STATE LEGISLATOR TODAY

The Indy *Star* reported on conservation funding in a recent news story here --

<https://www.indystar.com/story/news/2023/03/24/holcomb-wants-to-boost-natural-resource-spending-do-lawmakers-agree/70006962007/>

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DID YOU KNOW...

“We Are Not Just A Sports Shooting Chapter!”

Your Chapter Board of Directors starts each board meeting with this pledge: *“To strive for the purity of water, the clarity of air, and the wise stewardship of the land and its resources; to know the beauty and understanding of nature and the value of wildlife, woodlands, and open space; to the preservation of this heritage and to man's sharing in it. I pledge myself as a member of the Izaak Walton League of America.”*

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Email: jaybutler1940@gmail.com

Patrick White—Photo Journalist Editor

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RANGE OFFICERS ENJOY APPRECIATION DINNER



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**Fort Wayne Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America**

News



1922 2022

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2023 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, c/o Carl Ehinger, 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	\$12.00	\$53.00	\$140.00	38%	\$40.00*
Senior Family	\$75.00	\$6.00	\$53.00	\$134.00	39.5%	\$40.00*
Individual	\$50.00	\$8.00	\$42.00	\$100.00	42%	\$40.00*
Senior	\$50.00	\$6.00	\$34.00	\$90.00	38%	\$40.00*
Student	\$25.00	\$6.00	\$29.00	\$60.00	48%	\$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 Fort Wayne Chapter