

The Digital Magazine Of The Fort Wayne Chapter

September 2023 Issue

League 2023 Convention Convenes In Lincoln Nebraska



Fort Wayne News

Izaak Walton League of America



1922 2022

A Century of Conservation Leadership

the Fort Wayne Chapter

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Cover Photo

By: Jay L. Butler

Convention Photos

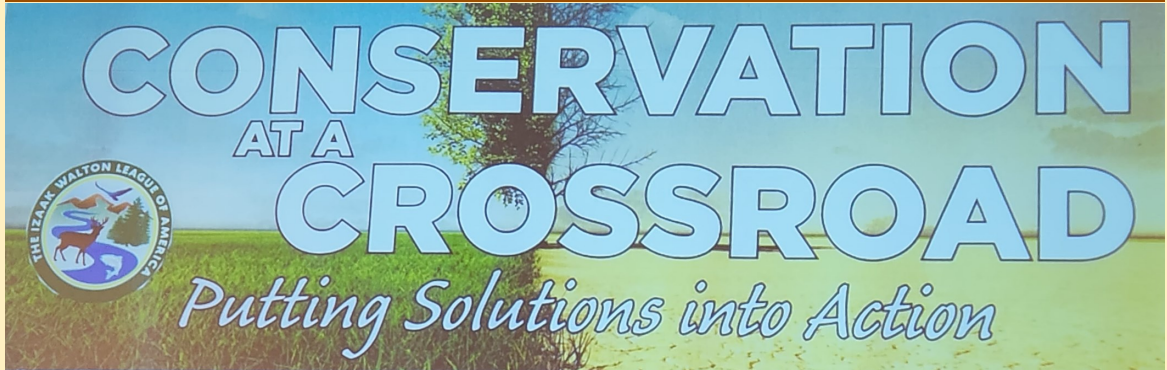
By Jay L. Butler

Chapter Photos

By Patrick J. White

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2nd Convention, 2nd Century Izaak Walton Meets In Lincoln Nebraska



CONVENTION CALLED TO ORDER – Vicky Arnold, President Izaak Walton League

The 2023 Izaak Walton League Convention was called to order at the Lincoln, Nebraska Marriott by President Vicki Arnold presiding. She called to our attention our 2023 theme of **Conservation at a Crossroad, Putting Solutions into Action** and that we are one year into our plan for the second century, having made significant progress in our first year.



“We can be proud”, she said, “of our Clean Water Program”, as we have succeeded in becoming a resource for individuals across the country to better understand the water quality in their communities.” Added to that is our Nitrate Watch program, with the League working to combat one of the most persistent and widespread threats to clean water nationwide.

She went on to say that “Through our agricultural programs, we are strengthening the relations between conservation and farming, a key component in making the necessary changes to protect the land and water resources important to every American. We are working hard to help pass the best Farm Bill possible.”

However, she cautioned that despite our League progress, the country has taken a major step backward with the 2023 Supreme Court ruling that drastically narrowed the scope of the Clean Water Act. She said that while this was extremely disappointing, we must strive to move forward meaningfully and responsibly with our conservation efforts, and we can do this by putting our conservation solutions into action.

LEAGUE VICE PRESIDENT – Jodi Arndt Labs

Jodie echoed Vicky in her opening comments, stating. “There is no question that thanks to the work of the League and its members over the last 100+ years we have made real progress to reduce pollution, restore wildlife and critical habitat and protect special places. Yet, although we have been able to celebrate a lot of successes over the years, there is still a lot of work for us as Ikes to do. Or, stated in another way, there are so many opportunities for the League to



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seize, opportunities for us to excel and be on the forefront of key conservation issues that are critical to protecting the environment and our way of life.”

Jodi challenged us to “Think about how we can embrace the future and put the vision statement we adopted at last year's convention into action. Remember”, she said, “you and your chapters don't need to engage in all the actions set forth in the vision statement. Action on any one of the items will make the League a stronger organization, ensuring that we remain a strong voice on conservation issues. I see the vision statement as a road map to continued success.”

Executive Director Scott Kovarovics Gives Overview Of League Accomplishments In 2023

Scott began by ticking off a summary of League accomplishments over this first year in the second century of the League.

- ◆ Lobbied key Senators and Representatives in Washington to advocate for a better Farm Bill. League staff visited more than 30 offices in June and hosted a webinar to provide guidance about how members and supporters can serve as effective advocates for a better Farm Bill.
- ◆ Gained press coverage for our work. Examples: op-ed on the Farm Bill by League President Vicki Arnold published in the *Des Moines Register*, and a letter to the editor from Executive Director Scott Kovarovics published in *The Washington Post* about the importance of managing deer populations.
- ◆ Finished 2022 on our anticipated membership target of 41,794.
- ◆ Empowered nearly 200 organizations to monitor local surface and tap water for dangerous levels of nitrate pollution. In just a few months, our new Nitrate Watch program distributed 470 kits to volunteers in 32 states plus the District of Columbia.
- ◆ Completed a sixth season of monitoring local waterways for toxic levels of chloride pollution. The League's popular Salt Watch program, working with its 41 official partners, received 5,450 test results from about 1,200 volunteers who monitored 2,330 stream locations.
- ◆ Conducted two Missouri River clean-ups (as of June), during which volunteers removed more than seven tons of trash, and five education and outreach sessions for youth and adults.
- ◆ Raised the profile of the Izaak Walton League's Clean Water programs at national and regional water monitoring conferences where League staff shared their expertise with water monitors and professionals in the field.



Scott, then began to give background on the recent Supreme Court Sacket decision.

Wetlands Of The United States

“Last year, the League filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in *Sackett v. EPA* to defend the scope of wetlands protections in the Clean Water Act. But in May, the Court ruled that Clean Water Act protections do not apply to many of the nation's wetlands. By eliminating these protections, the Court has nullified the underpinnings of the Act and threatened water quality, human health and wildlife habitat across the country.”

“In announcing its decision, which defines the types of wetlands that are protected from being drained and filled, the Court eliminated safeguards for wetlands except in extreme, limited circumstances. Unless a wetland has a continuous surface water connection to and is "as a practical matter indistinguishable from" a

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protected body of water, even if that separation is completely man-made and unnatural, will no longer be afforded protection under the Act.”

“In the coming months, the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers will have to issue new guidance and rules for issuing Clean Water Act permits that account for the Court's narrower definition. The League will engage with these agencies to help create a rule that is as protective of wetlands as possible.”

“Ultimately, Congress will need to clarify that the Act does protect wetlands, even a continuous surface water connection, and League staff will work on that goal with lawmakers and the broader conservation community.”

“In the meantime, the League will forcefully defend remaining wetlands protections through Farm Bill programs that incentivize wetlands protections.

Conservation compliance withholds federal subsidies for farmers who drain wetlands. Easements for wetlands for wildlife habitat are secured with federal funds, often with Duck Stamp revenue generated from sportsmen and women.

Jared Mott, League Conservation Director Gives Update On Lobbying Congress To Improve New Farm Bill

Lobbying for a better Farm Bill, league staff have made numerous visits to Capitol Hill this year - more than 30 meetings in June alone - to meet with key congressional offices. The team has kept up the pressure and engaged congressional offices right up until the July convention to make sure the League's priorities are heard by lawmakers.

Congress reviews federal farm policy every five years, and the last bill was passed in 2018. Because this legislation affects management of soil and water on about 900 million acres of land across the U.S., 2023 is an opportunity to remind Congress that a better Farm Bill would:

“Past failures to improve the soil have been the weak link in improving the effectiveness of conservation on the agricultural landscape.”



- ◆ Put soil health at the center of our nation's agricultural policy. Increase long-term investments in soil health and conservation programs that already have a clear, demonstrated record of success, like the Wetlands Reserve Easement Program that has restored and protected more than 2.5 million acres of wetlands across the U.S.
- ◆ Focus conservation dollars on programs that leverage non-federal funds, like the League's proposed State & Tribal Soil Health Grant Program.
- ◆ Cleaner water, sustainable food production, essential wildlife habitat and more climate resilience are all realistic outcomes of a better Farm Bill - **if we scale up and enforce existing conservation programs, invest wisely and act quickly.**

Izaak Walton League Launches New Clean Water Initiative: NITRATE WATCH

NITRATE WATCH LAUNCHED TO COMPLIMENT SALT WATCH LAUNCHED LAST YEAR

Nitrate in drinking water is a serious health problem in the U.S. Nitrate is linked to a variety of diseases in humans, and it wreaks havoc on the health of streams and lakes. To tackle this problem, the League launched Nitrate Watch in February and has already distributed more than 450 test kits, with 200 organizations participating in 32 states. So far, over 700 nitrate readings have been submitted from 22 states and DC. See nitrate-watch.org for results.

In the months ahead, League staff will continue to promote Nitrate Watch and begin regional campaigns across the country where engaged monitors will test water and connect data with advocacy. Staff are developing more actions monitors can take as advocates, like lobbying for soil health policy, signing the Nitrate Watch petition and writing letters to news media and government officials. Get involved and learn more at nitrate-watch.org.

Salt Watch continues to expand its reach and impact. Regional Salt Watch campaigns have continued and expanded, providing a powerful model for local governments and agencies to leverage volunteer science to address environmental problems.

For the first time since the creation of Salt Watch, agencies responsible for drinking water safety are explicitly asking for Salt Watch data, including the Maryland Department of the Environment and WSSC Water (the largest Maryland drinking water utility).

As of June 2023, we have distributed over 4,200 chloride test kits and have received over 5,200 results - which shows that the program is growing despite a mild winter in much of the country.

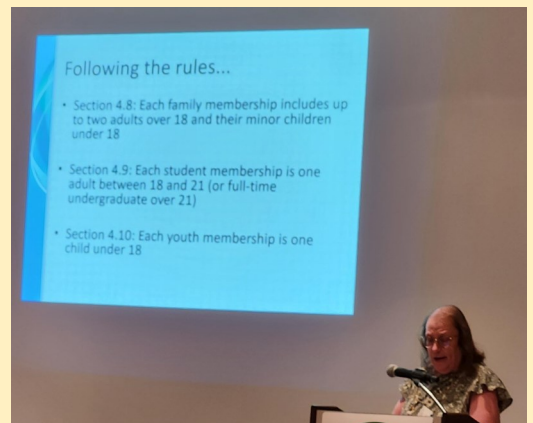
Moreover, 25 percent of results across the country were still over 100 parts per million (ppm) of chloride, indicating elevated levels of road salt pollution. To read the season's final report and view Salt Watch results, visit iwla.org/saltwatchresults.

This fall, League staff will continue to promote and grow the Salt Watch program and create localized campaigns that engage the public and can be easily replicated in communities across the country. This program provides ample opportunities for League chapters to get involved in local conservation.

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Mary Rubin Briefs Executive Board About New Website Development

The Communications staff made major progress to improve the visual appeal and ease of use of the national website in the near term, as an interim step before a comprehensive redesign in 2024. Toward that end, staff welcomes feedback about the website.



Following the rules...

- Section 4.8: Each family membership includes up to two adults over 18 and their minor children under 18
- Section 4.9: Each student membership is one adult between 18 and 21 (or full-time undergraduate over 21)
- Section 4.10: Each youth membership is one child under 18

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Outdoor America Covers The Conservation Water Front From All Perspectives

OUTDOOR AMERICA

The League's magazine began its 101st year of publication by profiling the Green Crew, a unique partnership between Scout Venture Crews and Izaak Walton League chapters. Instituted by the Minnesota Valley Chapter, this model for engagement and collaboration between youth and the League has gained visibility throughout Scouting and the League's chapter network.

The League's flagship publication **Out Door America** continues to be the leading conservation magazine in the USA.

-the Editor FW Chapter NEWS

So far this year, the magazine has also explored:

- ◆ Health dangers of nitrate in drinking water and how to address the problem.
- ◆ Growing popularity of outdoor preschools
- ◆ Importance of riparian buffers for healthy streams
- ◆ Community farms that employ adults with intellectual disabilities
- ◆ Indiana's "Art of Conservation" project
- ◆ The challenge of managing invasive species across the U.S.

Magazine articles planned for issues 3 and 4 in 2023 include:

- ◆ Sustaining engagement for hunting and fishing across the generations
- ◆ How the *Sackett v. EPA* court decision will adversely affect wetlands in the U.S.
- ◆ History of the League's leadership role in creating the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge in 1924

Policy Resolutions Passed At Convention

Dangerous PFAS and microplastics. This resolution amends the League's conservation policy so as to identify PFAS and PFOS as chemicals that contaminate water and land and threaten human health and wildlife, and information about these threats should be shared with the public.

Performance-based compensation for agriculture programs. This resolution amends the League's conservation policy to urge a transition from practice-based to performance-based compensation that incentivizes conservation steps that enhance soil health, reduce erosion and improve water quality.

Equitable net metering. This resolution urges state utility authorities to create incentives for "net metering," where a non-utility that generates electricity from solar, wind or other renewable sources can get credit for power fed back into the electric grid.

Carbon dioxide pipelines and enhanced oil recovery. This resolution directs the League to oppose the use of eminent domain to condemn private land for construction of carbon dioxide sequestration pipelines, and also to oppose use of captured carbon dioxide for enhanced oil recovery.

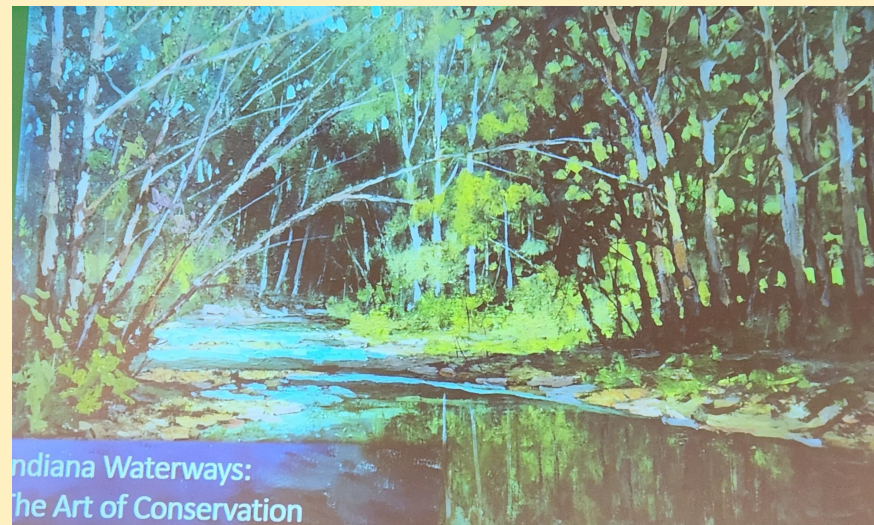
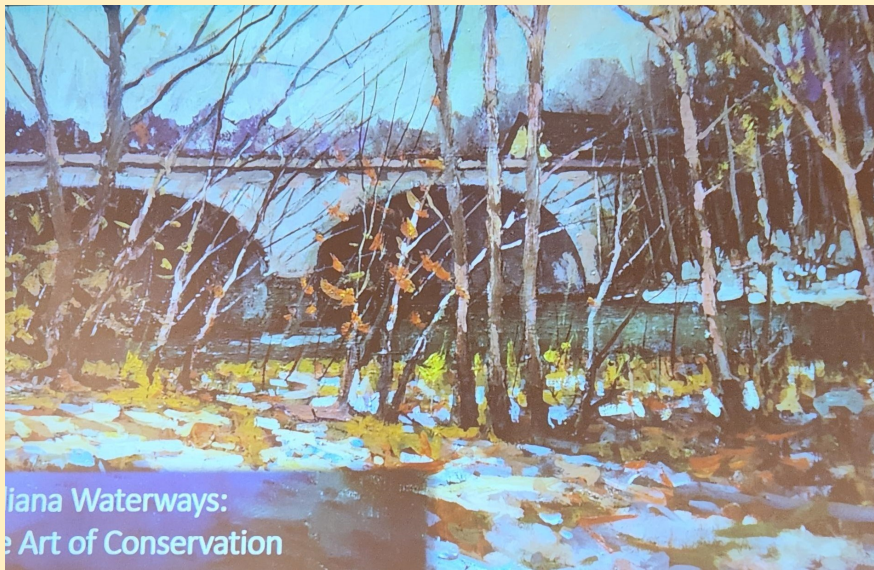
The resolutions will be officially added to the League's policy handbook in the coming weeks.

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Avon Waters-Indiana River Artist Presentation

Avon gave a digital ZOOM presentation of his five-painter team that has spent the last year doing artist renderings of the Rivers of Indiana. With early support from the Indiana Division, their project was to capture the essence of Indiana waterways on canvas. These paintings are now being shown in exhibits across the major cities of Indiana, with one stop having been Fort Wayne. He mentioned that what started out to be simple in task, opened up into Conservation related events through a relationship with the Indiana Division of IWLA, and the coffee table book to be published now will include the writings of noted Indiana conservationist.



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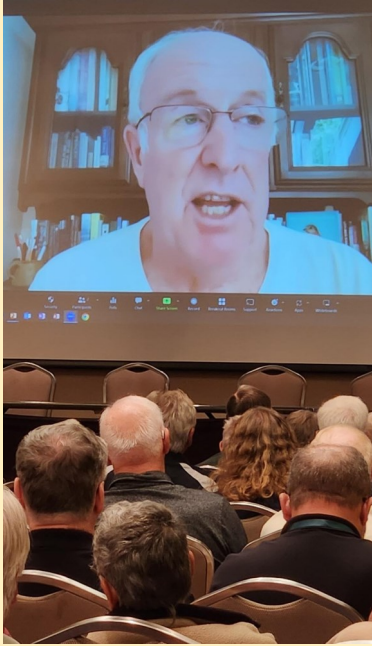
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OPENING HOME-GROWN NATIONAL PARKS

Presentation by Dr Doug Tallamy.



Dr. Tallamy gave a very interesting presentation on what is at stake for the future of biodiversity in the U.S. and the loss of insects, primarily his interest in caterpillars, and the resultant reduction of the birds of the United States. A major contributor to this loss is farm insecticides and neighborhood spraying of insect killer fogging to control mosquitos. A further contribution has been the raking of leaves that destroys insect He spent a significant part of his presentation on building National Parks at Home, a play on words for the creation of small havens of native wildflowers in plots around the yard of homeowners.

TED CORRIGAN – CEO & GENERAL MANAGER, DES MOINES WATER WORKS—Impact of Nitrate Pollution of our Watersheds.

Ted spoke on the challenges facing the states with clean water, with insight on causes for Nitrate pollution.

High on the list is over fertilization by farmers and runoff of excess fertilizer getting into our waterways. These factory farms house thousands of animals in small pens under one roof on the same acreage previously owned by a farmer with 40-50 head of livestock. The huge increase in manure, is the source of much nitrate introduction.

A second factor attributable to Farmers is the field drain tiles used especially heavily in the corn belt to carry off ground water, as corn does not like 'wet feet'. The rows of field tile dump into ditches at the edge of the field that dump into streams, carrying chemicals along with it.

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During the Q&A, I mentioned that Indiana has perhaps the most stringent controls of CAFO's but that those controls are rendered ineffective by the IDEM hiring so few enforcement personnel. The normal practice is to check CAFO operations every five years. He confirmed that most states are woefully understaffed, relative to the number of CAFO's springing up.

BILL DUNN, VICE PRESIDENT MARKETING – NATIONAL SPORTS SHOOTING FOUNDATION (NSSF) - Trends in Sports Shooting

Bill's comments were a welcome departure towards balanced reporting of both Conservation and Shooting Sports and was based on a huge number of one-on-one conversations with Sports shooters across the United States. Our staff is to be commended for bringing us such an authority and it was a pleasure to listen to him.

Based on current trends and surveys, tomorrow's shooters will be looking for the following, according to Bill.

- ◆ **What they are looking for in a Rifle & Pistol Range.**
 - ◆ **Training – Everything from very basic introductory classes to Advanced Classes.**
 - ◆ Convenience: From a brief ride to get there, to ease of participating when they arrive.
 - ◆ Someone to invite them and show them the way.
 - ◆ Above all, they want to feel welcome.
- ◆ **Current reasons for not going target shooting.**
 - ◆ Nearest shooting range too far away.
 - ◆ Don't know where to go.
 - ◆ No one to go with, or to shoot with when they arrive. Looking for camaraderie.

Survey Results based on 63.5 million shooters – Interest in descending order (Shooter can like more than one shooting sport)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| ◆ Target Shooting – Handgun | 42.9% |
| ◆ Target Shooting – Rifle | 39.6% |
| ◆ Target Shooting – MSR | 23.5% |
| ◆ Sporting Clays | 23.5% |
| ◆ Skeet Shooting | 14.7% |

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- ◆ **Trap Shooting** **12.9%**
- ◆ **Long Range Shooting** **11.8%**
- ◆ **Three Gun** **10.5%**

(Bold underlining by Editor as these could impact FW Chapter Planning,)

Ron said that the wise Range owner pays close attention to these statistics and what shooters say that they are looking for in a range.

What is the top inquiry of 1st time gun purchasers to NSSF?

- ◆ 52% were inquiring about a place to shoot.
- ◆ 44% then signed up for firearm training.

Training in Self Defense is the top motivation for new gun purchasers.

- ◆ 2012 49% said this was the most important consideration in their purchase.
- ◆ 2014 51% identified this as the most important consideration.
- ◆ 2016 42%
- ◆ 2018 58% a significant increase.
- ◆ 2020 60% identified this as most important.

What's has changed with New Shooters?

- ◆ In 2022 younger shooters made up the largest portion of new shooters, whereas in every other survey in earlier years, the age range was the 35–54-year-old age bracket.
- ◆ In 2022 new shooters and non-traditional shooters (such as those who did not grow up in a household with a firearm that was used at least twice a year and those who did not shoot until they were adults), went shooting at an indoor range than their counterparts did. Especially true in urban areas.

The importance of self-defense as a motivation for shooting has continued to rise in recent years, providing further evidence of the non-traditional entry into shooting.

Sports Shooting Traditional History in millions.

2009	34.4M shooters
2012	40.8M shooters
2014	51.2M shooters
2016	49.4M shooters
2018	52.1M shooters
2020	56.4M shooters
2022	63.5M shooters



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NSSF offers free assistance in setting up a shooting experience for new shooters called ONE-SHOT.

- ◆ NSSF will supply Ammunition, targets, and eye/ear protection at no charge.
- ◆ NSSF will supply marketing support to the media.
- ◆ NSSF will provide easy to follow course curriculum and guides.

The NSSF provides the most comprehensive where to shoot information at www.wheretoshoot.org

During the Q&A, I referenced my home chapter study just completed (Fort Wayne) that shows that most losses in non-renewals are families in their first two years of membership, with most at the end of the 1st year. Yet our new member applications come in monthly in very healthy numbers. While 99.9% of new applications pay the extra \$40.00 above regular dues as a range fee for our new rifle & pistol range. I mentioned that we have concluded that there are two factors at play, neither of which are controllable in an IWLA Sport shooting chapter:

The post Covid-19 adjustment downward from high sign-up during the pandemic.

The 22% cost of living increase, beginning with the new federal administration.

My question was: Have you any statistics to support these findings and his answer was: **“While I have no statistics, NSSF has heard similar reports very frequently in their interviews of range managers across the United States.”**



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CONVENTION PARTICIPANTS LISTENING TO DR. TALLAMY

All Work Done To Maintain Our Property Is Accomplished By About 2% Of Our Member Volunteers. We Have No Paid Help.



Rifle & Pistol Manager Karla Wyss Spends many volunteer hours keeping your range in the condition that you enjoy when you come to shoot.

SHE COULD USE SOME HELP!

WHEN DID YOU LAST VOLUNTEER?



Member Volunteer Ron Hessert Continues Work to Upgrade Area Where Excess Utility Poles Were Stored.

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Members Leaving Gate To Walton Lake and Meadowlands Open

Presently, we have a security issue with our Walton Lake—Meadowlands Acreage with security. Chapter policy is that this gate is to be kept locked and members are responsible for unlocking and locking the gate at the entrance upon arriving and leaving the lake area.

This is essential for two reasons:

1. Liability: We have assured our Insurance carrier that this area will be locked when unattended. This is for liability reasons associated with the lake and boats being available to non members.
2. The area is for the enjoyment of Members and their Guests only and is not open to the general public, unless the grounds have been specifically opened for a public event, like a fishing contest.

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO ASSURE
THIS POLICY IS ADHERED TO.**

FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

DATE: September 23, 2013
TIME: 6 00pm
PLACE: Chapter House

**Potluck Dinner At 6:00pm
Tableware and Meat
Furnished
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**Chapter Business Meeting
And
Installation of Board To Follow**

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IZAACK WALTON LEAGUE - FORT WAYNE CHAPTER

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RSO's Run Trial Small Bore Rifle Competition

(Jim Herman Takes Top Honors)



Shooter	Rnd #1	Rnd #2	Final
Herman	230	235	465
Hessert	221	239	460
Hale	221	212	433
Green	200	216	416
Ehinger	210	197	407
Thompson	193	185	368

The FW Chapter RSO's held a Small Bore 22LR Target Match and Sheriff Jim Herman Took First Place Honors In The Match. According To Match Coordinator Patrick White, The Match Was An Unadvertised Special Among the Range RSO's, Organized To Test The Concept and Range Capability in a Small Bore Rifle Competition. The turn out among the RSO's while small, proved the concept feasible. According to Patrick those participating enjoyed fellowship and a good time as they went about the work of evaluating potential.

Range Manager Announces

Member Small Bore Rifle Competition

DATE: September 23rd

TIME: 8:30—10:30am

REGISTER: RSO Shed

Fun Competition—Members Only

“Ya'll Com'on Out And Have Some Fun!”



FALL CRAFT SHOW

PLACE: FW Chapter

LOCATION: 17100 Griffin Rd.

DATE: Saturday, October 7, 2023

Email Karla: marw4@frontier.com

Or Cindy: cgk1997@gmail.com

for More Info

Karla Wyss, an avid amateur photographer has joined the staff of the FW Chapter NEWS IWLA as our chapter photographer, replacing Patrick J. White.

Karla loves the outdoors, and specializes in flower photos. She is currently serving as Range Manager of our Rifle & Pistol Range.

She joins our volunteer staff consisting of Jay Butler—Managing Editor, Carl Ehinger—Distribution, and Victoria Boyd-Devine, our Proof Reader.



ATTENTION LADIES



The Annie Oakley Squad

is looking for women that are interested in joining us for an afternoon of shooting and girl talk.

Thursday
October 19th at 5:00

If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please contact Karla Wyss
-260-615-9383 or
marw4@frontier.com

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9 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Table Rental \$30

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OR 260-437-6807

the Fort Wayne Chapter

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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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Our Ranges

RIFLE & PISTOL

Summer: 10:30AM—7:30PM

Winter: 10:00AM—5:00PM

Open: Mon-Tue-Fri-Sat-Sun

TRAP & SKEET

Sundays 9:00AM—1:00PM All Year

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